

Freed hostage flies to U.S.

FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI) — Freed American hostage Jesse Turner left Germany for the United States Friday, four days after being freed by kidnappers who had held him in Lebanon for nearly five years. Mr. Turner, 44, flew from Frankfurt on a civil airliner bound for Chicago and Denver. He was accompanied by his Lebanese wife Badia and four-year-old daughter Joanne, who was born shortly after he was seized in January 1987. Mr. Turner's stay at a U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden was shorter than that of other American hostages freed in Lebanon in recent years. Officials at the hospital said they had been surprised at his sudden decision to leave. It was not clear whether his early departure and use of a civilian rather than government plane were connected with a row between his stepfather and the hospital. His stepfather, Eugene Romemburg, was buried from the hospital Thursday for videotaping the family's reunion and passing the tape to a television network, which broadcast it in the United States. Mr. Romemburg said on Friday he felt the U.S. repatriation had been an injustice.

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Arabiyat returns from Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat returned to Amman Friday after taking part in an Iranian-sponsored conference on Palestine which concluded in Tehran Tuesday. Dr. Arabiyat was accompanied by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation which comprised deputies Abdul Majid Shreideh and Mohammad Al Haj. The conference, in which ministers and parliamentarians from 60 countries participated, called for forming a joint force named Al Quds (Jerusalem) army to liberate all Palestine. Dr. Arabiyat said, in a statement at the airport that the conference recommended collecting donations to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. The Arab Parliamentary Union, he said, held a meeting on the sidelines of the conference to unify their stands. "Heads of the Islamic parliamentary delegation urged participants in the conference to support Iraq and lift the embargo imposed on it since Aug. 1990," he said.

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Bush: U.S. will be an active partner in Madrid

Jordan finalises delegation; Palestinian team arrives

Diplomats and experts expected to dominate Jordan's negotiation team

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government was completing work last night on the names of the Jordanian side to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and a final list is expected to be announced today. Career diplomats and technical experts are expected to dominate the Jordanian team, which will meet today with their Palestinian counterparts to get to know each other and coordinate strategy on the historic Middle East conference that opens next week.

Mr. Bush also said his talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev before the conference will cover any subject the Soviet leader wants to bring up.

The U.S. president characterised the Madrid talks a first step towards peace in a trouble part of the world.

"The United States cannot make peace, only the parties themselves can do that," the president told a news conference at the White House.

The president said he would meet privately with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir while in Madrid for the ceremonial opening of the peace conference.

The meeting expands Mr. Bush's role beyond a ceremonial opening speech.

The private session with Mr. Gorbachev, who is attending as co-host, will be "open-ended" covering subjects such as nuclear weapons and the Soviet economy — "anything that he's interested in," Mr. Bush said.

It will be their first meeting since the collapse of a hardline communist coup against Mr. Gorbachev in August, and since the two leaders announced steps to cut their nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Bush said he would use the occasion to present another detailed arms initiative.

Mr. Bush turned aside questions on the specifics of the peace talks.

But he said, "we are trying to be a catalyst." His comments suggested he may have private suggestions for Mr. Shamir about shaping a settlement with the Arabs.

Mr. Bush commended the statesmanship of all countries that agreed to attend the peace conference, and said "sitting down together is the beginning of understanding."

Mr. Bush stressed the "historic nature" of the conference, the first in the region since a failed attempt in 1973. He noted that the Middle East has been "characterised by dangerous and tragic conflicts for decades."

Even as he expressed his hopes for the outcome of the Madrid talks, Mr. Bush brushed aside a question about whether progress was possible without Israel giving up territory it took in 1967.

Arafat will stay out of talks, will accept outcome

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday that the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast talks would negotiate without his help, and he promised to abide by the conference's outcome.

"Anything these Palestinian leaders in this conference will accept, I will accept," he said in a television interview.

Mr. Arafat appeared on a large television screen in a studio as he spoke by satellite from Tunis, Tunisia, to interviewers Phil Donahue and Vladimir Pozner, a Soviet political commentator. Several callers posed questions, but Mr. Arafat appeared to have difficulty hearing much of what was said in the studio.

The Palestinians are going to the conference in a joint delegation with Jordan, and will be advised by a 14-member committee. The talks are scheduled to start Wednesday in Madrid, Spain.

A major issue of conflict in convening the talks was the background of Palestinian negotiators. Israel ruled out any from outside the occupied territories or anyone with strong ties to the PLO.

A sign of the issue's explosiveness came Friday, when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said Israel would consider pulling out of the talks if the

Egypt freezes visa rule

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said Friday that the Egyptian authorities froze a decision calling for Jordanians to obtain visas before entering Egyptian territory.

In a statement given to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sharif said the visa requirement for Jordanians would be frozen until the Egyptian authorities annul the decision. He said Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber was informed by his Egyptian counterpart Friday in a telephone conversation of Cairo's decision.

The two foreign ministers had the issue under discussion Thursday in Damascus at a meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. Press reports published Friday said Jordanians should obtain a visa before visiting Egypt. The reports quoted a senior Egyptian officer at Cairo airport as saying that he had orders to turn back any Jordanian without a visa.

Israel names hardline team, threatens boycott

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel named a hardline team on Friday to Middle East peace talks and threatened to walk out if a Palestinian who declared his negotiating team represented the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attended.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who pushed aside his Foreign Minister David Levy to take charge of the team, picked a 14-member team dominated by hawks.

The list was announced by Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Ehud Gol, who said an advisory committee would be named later.

Two of those named in the prime minister's team, Yossi Ben Aharon, director general of Mr. Shamir's office, and cabinet secretary Elaykin Rubinstein, are expected to draw the toughest jobs.

Mr. Ben Aharon, who many believe is more hardened than Mr. Shamir, is expected to head bilateral talks with Syria.

Mr. Rubinstein is likely to have drawn leadership of bilateral negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian team.

The Palestinians are sending a 14-member advisory committee along with the 14 negotiators who will be part of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

The other members of the Israeli delegation are:

(Continued from page 2)

See page 2 for profiles of the Israeli delegates.

delegation included Saeb Erekat, who said in an interview Thursday that his delegation "was chosen by the PLO."

In response to a question from Mr. Donahue whether the Palestinian delegates represented the PLO, Mr. Arafat said yes, but only because "any Palestinian represents the PLO."

"They have declared many times because they are Palestinians, they are leaders in our occupied territories — they will represent the PLO," he said.

He said that principle was part of the PLO's charter.

Mr. Arafat's response showed how he was seeking to maintain a PLO profile in the talks yet not provoke the Israeli enough for them to back out.

Earlier, Mr. Donahue asked the PLO chairman if he would communicate with the delegation during the talks.

"They are not in need of me now," Mr. Arafat said. "They have all the probabilities and capabilities and everything."

In explaining why the Palestinians chose to attend the conference, Mr. Arafat said it was to avoid a split in the peace process and not to give Israel any excuse for avoiding negotiations.

Mr. Arafat was asked if he was optimistic. He said the talks would not be easy. "We are in need of more efforts to achieve

(Continued on page 7)



Palestinian delegates to the Madrid conference are received by Jordanian officials and others upon their arrival on the eastern side of the King Hussein Bridge early Friday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Palestinian team suggests 'confidence-building' steps

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

Thursday was expanded from seven to 14 people who include representatives from refugee camps and pro-PLO factions.

Hanan Ashrawi from the steering committee, who could not attend direct negotiations because she has an identity card from Jerusalem, told reporters upon arrival at the Plaza Hotel lobby that the talks with Jordanian officials and the Jordanian delegation, whose names had not yet been announced, would focus on further coordination before the U.S.-Soviet sponsored Madrid conference starts on Wednesday.

The delegation, headed by prominent nationalists and Gaza physician Haider Abdul Shafi, and its steering committee headed by Faisal Husseini, were met by Jordanian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials at the King Hussein Bridge across the Jordan River.

The steering committee late on

(Continued on page 4)

Masri meets PLO and occupied territories teams; coordination going well

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Taher Masri met on Friday with Senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials and the Palestinian delegation to coordinate stands prior to the Madrid Middle East peace conference this week.

The resulting process is that no formal meetings between PLO officials and the Palestinian delegation are

coordinated.

The PLO delegation, headed by PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Qaddoumi, and the Palestinian team which crossed the bridge on Friday, all staying at the Plaza Hotel.

Mr. Masri went to the Plaza Friday evening and he met with both the PLO delegation led by Mr. Qaddoumi and the Palestinian negotiating

(Continued on page 7)

Damascus meeting agrees on united stand in Madrid

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Arab leaders have forged a common stance for next week's Middle East peace conference at a meeting of their foreign ministers here.

One of the Arab sources in Damascus, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the participants at the meeting differed widely on some points, but after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's decision to lead the Israeli delegation they felt their best stand would be "total harmony."

The Arab states want a "complete Israeli withdrawal" from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, an "immediate freeze" on the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, and "realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" who seek an independent homeland.

In the meeting in Damascus, the front-line participants agreed not to reach separate peace accords with Israel, demanded a halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and insisted that Israel negotiate on the status

of Jerusalem.

peace talks agree that secondary issues such as water rights will not be tackled until Israel agrees to discuss withdrawing from the occupied Arab lands.

Multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs are due to take place on issues including arms control and water rights following the Madrid conference.

Bilateral talks are due to begin four days later.

West Bank Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi said in Amman that Palestinian officials pledged at the two-day meeting in Damascus not to sign separate bilateral treaties with Israel without progress on the Palestinian problem.

"There will not be any single treatise between any single Arab country and Israel," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in Amman.

Destruction of Iraqi arms may take until 1993

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's chemical weapons arsenal is so vast, dangerous and unwieldy that U.N. teams will not be able to finish destroying it until at least 1993, a top U.N. official said.

"The ... munitions that are filled with nerve agents and mustard gas and so on, as you can imagine, those are extremely dangerous to handle," said Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission set up to destroy Iraq's chemical arsenal and other mass destruction weapons.

Disposing of the munitions poses a "great risk," Mr. Ekeus said.

A team of about 50 U.N. special commission inspectors is currently surveying the main Iraqi chemical weapons site at the Muthanna military base outside of Baghdad. Their mission is due to end in early November.

The munitions will be destroyed on site at Muthanna, and chemical weapons found elsewhere in Iraq are being transported there.

The inspectors are checking all of the many buildings on the site because Baghdad has consistently understated its weapons programmes in its declarations to the United Nations.

In April, Iraq declared it had about 12,000 chemical bombs, shells and missiles, but inspectors found about 46,000 loaded weapons, along with 79,000 unplied munitions, over 600 tons of chemical warfare agents and 3,000 tons of precursor chemicals.

"We will work well into 1993 on the destruction of chemicals; that will be a prolonged element," Mr. Ekeus told reporters.

"We have now 125,000 items to take care of, which is an enormous amount."

Iraq declared after the Gulf war that it had 52 Scud or modified Scud missiles, and 30 chemical weapon warheads for them.

Dughmi's resignation expected to end differences in cabinet over labour policies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The resignation of Abdul Karim Dughmi as labour minister was accepted Thursday, ending differences in the council of ministers spanning several months over labour policies and other issues concerning government work.

The resignation was not a spur-of-the-moment decision but the culmination of differences in approach among members of the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri and had a lot to do with the basic concept of "Jordanisation" of the Kingdom's workforce, according to informed sources and analysts.

A Royal Decree was issued Thursday accepting Mr. Dughmi's resignation and appointing Qaseem Obaidat, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, as acting

would be accepted by King Hussein, following a recommendation from the prime minister, who was said to have involved in a last-ditch effort to convince the deputy from the northern constituency of Mafrqa to stay.

Prime Minister Masri himself and several cabinet colleagues tried in vain to talk Mr. Dughmi out of resigning," said a cabinet source.

"They gave up after Mr. Dughmi refused to budge from his position," added the source, who, like most others who spoke to the Jordan Times on the issue, preferred anonymity.

Accounts of the reasons of

Mr. Dughmi's resignation

Qaseem Obaidat

ernment as minister of municipal affairs and the environment in December 1989 when Mr. Badran formed his government after the parliamentary elections in November of that year. He was appointed minister of labour in the cabinet reshuffle of January 1991, and retained the portfolio in the Masri cabinet, which was sworn in on June

19, 1991.

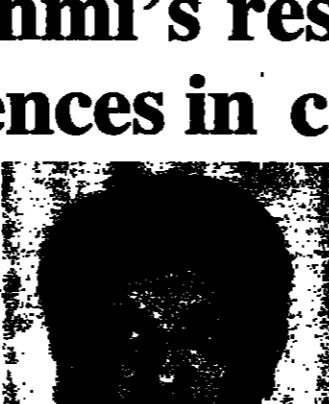
According to cabinet sources, Mr. Dughmi had submitted his resignation several times in the past, including during his tenure in the Badran cabinet, after sharp differences arose between him and other ministers over labour policies and other issues involving government policies.

"It was mostly a question of chemistry not mixing," commented a cabinet member. "Mr. Dughmi had his own way of doing things and some of his colleagues did not see eye-to-eye with him, and the differences gradually grew to an irreconcilable rift," said the source.

"Mr. Dughmi had submitted his resignation at least six times in the past, but everytime he was dissuaded."

Mr. Dughmi, a lawyer by profession, joined the gov-

(Continued on page 7)



Abdul Karim Dughmi



Qaseem Obaidat

Man, with dynamite in mouth, kills self

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 42-year-old man from Maan committed suicide Thursday by detonating explosives he had attached to his head and body.

Nabil Mohammad Al Awadeh, a quarry owner, drove his pick-up to the Maan cemetery accompanied by his teenage son Ashraf. He then put a dynamite bar in his mouth and connected it to the car battery, a Maan resident told the Jordan Times.

The resident, who did not wish to be identified, said the man's upper half was "mutilated beyond recognition."

He said the son was not harmed by the explosion.

Mr. Awadeh, originally from Nablus in the West Bank, had access to explosives to use in his quarry, the Maan resident said.

The resident, who has connections to the police department, said Mr. Awadeh had recently run into financial problems, had divorced his second wife and had quarrels with his relatives.

The police department in Maan declined to give any information about the incident.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim congratulating him on his country's national day. The King expressed his best wishes to the Austrian president on the occasion and wished the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

Lawzi praises Jordanian position

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday stressed Jordan's principled stand which calls for uniting Arab ranks and achieving solidarity. Addressing a large audience at the Arab Youth Forum, Mr. Lawzi called on the Arab Nation to rise above the rifts and differences and to learn from the mistakes of the past in order to achieve a better future for the generations to come.

Delegation leaves for AAU meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Presidents of Jordanian universities Thursday left for Doha to take part in the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) meetings due to be held in the Qatari capital today. Participants will discuss the association's budget, its annual report and will elect a new secretary general for a four-year term.

Madrid media delegation named

AMMAN (Petra) — Tareq Khouri of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, was named to head the Jordanian official media delegation to Spain where they are expected to cover the peace conference which will convene there on Oct. 30. The delegation includes Mureed Hammad and Kassab Samawi from Jordan Television, Omar Al Omari from Petra, and Mohammad Al Sharif from Radio Jordan.

New hotel opens in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Maan Governor Qasem Al Farayeh Thursday stood in for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the Aquamarine III Hotel in Aqaba. The hotel includes 54 rooms with 120 beds.

Symposium on food pricing concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day symposium on pricing and food subsidy policies concluded here Thursday with a call for providing the right climate to ensure interaction between supply and demand. The symposium also called for providing the infrastructure needed to promote marketing, such as road networks, storage areas, databases and other baseline information.

ESCWA and specialised agencies celebrate United Nations Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNDP and specialised agencies based in Amman Thursday celebrated United Nations Day.

During a ceremony under the patronage of the His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at the Royal Cultural Centre, Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber — under-secretary-general and executive secretary of ESCWA addressed ministers, representatives of the specialised agencies and their staff members.

Crown Prince Hassan underlined the seriousness of the situation in Jordan in the aftermath of the Gulf war and reminded that his country witnessed the arrival of "the largest wave of migration" that started with the Palestinian exodus in 1948 and again in 1967 and ended with the hundreds of thousands of returnees from the Gulf countries.

He made reference to an ESCWA report on migration and reiterated his country's need for external aid to help absorb the "waves of exodus." He reaffirmed that the \$4.5 billion Jordan needs in this context would barely help safeguarding the current standard of life.

Underlining the three major issues that have to be dealt with in the regional and in the international levels in order to enhance the development and security in the Middle East, namely arms control energy and debt relief, Prince Hassan called for additional efforts to tackle the problems of hunger and indebtedness and said "hunger is a form of genocide



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses conference at Royal Cultural Centre celebrating United Nations Day Thursday (Petra photo)

that threatens the human beings."

While emphasising the role of the organisation of the United Nations, Crown Prince Hassan said the U.N. should reassess its role through emphasising coordination. The structural elements must be reformed to ensure symmetry, he said.

The Crown Prince called upon the U.N. family to assist the region by enhancing interdisciplinarity and by reinforcing regional cooperation, adding that the United Nations presence can only be ensured by its members.

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, said in his statement that Western Asia region has not witnessed in recent history a more difficult year than the one that has just passed. It was a truly

bitter one, during which all the peoples of the region and in particular those of Kuwait and of Iraq, lived a total economic and social tragedy.

Dr. Abdel Jaber recalled that thousands of citizens were displaced with immense suffering and Jordan, with its deep rooted traditions of generosity and hospitality, was able to facilitate and assist the flow of hundreds of thousands of evacuees. He expressed the hope that the multilateral and bilateral assistance will help alleviate Jordan's economic problems resulting from the tragedy.

The executive secretary of ESCWA regretted that armed conflicts have destroyed the infrastructure and public services projects in more than one country of the region.

Dr. Abdel Jaber said that the occupation by Israel of Palestinian and other Arab territories for about a quarter of a century, the ordeals of Lebanon, the consequences of the Iraq/Iran War and the Gulf war have weakened the region's capacity to confront the basic issues of development in the right manner.

Welcoming the peace conference on the Middle East due to the held in Madrid, Dr. Abdel Jaber expressed the hope that the conflicts in the region find their way towards resolution in conformity with justice and international legitimacy. He concluded his statement by reading the message of the secretary-general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, on the occasion of the U.N. Day.

REVIEW

Don Pasquale delights audience with humour

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opera Don Pasquale performed Wednesday night at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental captured the delight of the audience.

Presented for the first time in Jordan, this comedy opera tells the story of an old man who disinherits his nephew for disobeying him and not marrying someone chosen for him.

Instead, he weds a young bride who, ironically, turns out to be the nephew's poor sweetheart. The story takes on a humorous twist as the nephew, Ernesto, played by Harry Nicoll, the uncle's spicy doctor, Dr. Malatesca played by Christopher Blades, and the strong willed witty young bride (and Ernesto's sweetheart)

Norina, played by Carol Meyer, gang up against the elderly uncle and fake his marriage in order to dissuade the uncle from committing such a grave mistake of disinheriting his nephew.

Burdened with bills from his new bride's and wasteful spending, the ignorant Don Pasquale seeks the advice of the good doctor. The doctor, in collusion with Norina, persuades her to divorce Don Pasquale, claiming the (Don Pasquale) has another bride. The opera thus concluded with the unveiling of the cast's true identities and the realisation of Don Pasquale's error.

The opera, the cast, the set and the music were very heart warming. The voices and performances of the four main stars, especially the coy, prud-

ish act of the good doctor, is entrancing and adds spice to the story line.

Don Pasquale's character, played by Attila Manizade, takes the audience through a roller coaster of emotions, at the start of the opera, a pompous Don Pasquale throws his nephew out in the cold with no second thoughts; but throughout the opera and up until the true identities of the cast are revealed, the emotional setback suffered by Don Pasquale at the hands of his bride (especially when he is slapped by her) makes the audience feel sorry for him.

The witty and strong character of Norina, and the act she puts on at the start of the opera, in collaboration with the good doctor, is a magical combination that gives this

opera its comic edge.

All in all, the opera, the cast and their performance were delighting and entertaining.

Officials counting country's livestock

AMMAN (J.T.) — The counting of sheep and goats has started throughout the country and officials from the Ministry of Interior along with teams from the Health, Industry, Trade and Supply, Education and Agriculture ministries are supervising the operation.

Ministry of Interior sources said that the census was needed to gather complete information about the livestock wealth in Jordan so that farmers can receive fodder during droughts.

Prime Minister Taher Masri had issued an order to the concerned government departments to embark on the counting of animals in the rural, badia and border regions. The various ministries are assisted in this process by the Department of Statistics, the badia and border police as well as governors of the various provinces.

Amman Governor Isa Al Omari announced that the counting of sheep within the Amman Governorate has been completed and that a total of 713,339 heads of sheep, cattle and goats were found in the region. The governor of Maan reported that his governorate was found to have 577,506 heads of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and horses.

The process was still continuing Friday, and according to Interior Ministry sources, it will be several days before the final counts can be known and published.

Ministry denies report that commercial quantities of oil had been found

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has denied a report published by Akhbar Al Ustaz Thursday which said that oil had been found in commercial quantities in Jordan.

The statement expressed regret that such incorrect information was being published in the press and said that such false reports can only confuse citizens and harm the image of the NRA teams, which are now conducting oil and gas exploration in Jordan.

The statement said that the NRA teams were pursuing their efforts as best they could and the natural gas found in the Rishah area was being utilised to generate electric power.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shammoun, Khalid Klweis and Mohammad Husein Abdulla at Abdul Hameed Shammoun Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sama Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Burckhardt (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Laban, Hadi Banous, Arik Abu Joud and Samsa Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A special season of antique Etchings, engravings, folio illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Midwest as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Behavioural Factors in Architecture and Urban Design: Environmental Psychology and the Applied Design Disciplines" by Dr. Mohammad S. Al Mousli at the Goethe Institute — 7:30 p.m.

Minister: UNESCO offices to remain in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will remain in Amman to continue to practice as a centre for cultural activities and communication for Arab countries, according to Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat.

Speaking upon returning to Amman from a UNESCO meeting in Paris, Dr. Dahiyat said he had held meetings with UNESCO officials over this matter and came to an agreement with them that the regional office in Amman will operate as a centre for training and research, specifically related to women in the Arab region.

Last July, UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor announced that the UNESCO offices in Beirut would be moved to Beirut and would be operational in the Lebanese capital by April 1992. The decision caused deep concern among

achievements. Dr. Dahiyat said that the Jordanian delegation provided UNESCO with complete files of educational cultural and scientific projects of concern to the Kingdom. Among these, he said, was the restoration of the Qasr Al Bint Castle at the ancient Nabataean City of Petra.

The minister said that Jordan has secured UNESCO's approval to finance the restoration project.

He said that a UNESCO team will visit Jordan in the coming month to conduct technical studies prior to financing Jordan's national museum, a project undertaken by the Jordanian government.

The minister also noted that UNESCO will provide assistance to the Ministry of Education to help it overcome difficulties and shoulder the burden of educating thousands of expatriate children returning from Kuwait.

Dr. Dahiyat was accompanied to the meeting by a team of senior ministry officials.

local Jordanian staff employed by the Ministry of Education in Amman.

With reference to the UNESCO meeting, Dr. Dahiyat said that his delegation submitted to the meeting an outline of Jordan's educational policies, and

to arrest any persons because nothing in its laws gives it the right to arrest people.

In light of this, the defence called for the immediate release of all 18 defendants, Mr. Araaj said.

Replying to the defence, Judge Yousef Faouzi, said the ruling of the Higher Court of Justice does not apply to this particular case because the director general of the General Intelligence Department was an administrative department. It went on by saying that the Higher Court of Justice, in its capacity as the administrative party in charge of looking into administrative issues as legally valid.

In Wednesday's session, which lasted four hours, the court panel listened to an explanation by the advocate Monsa Al Araaj on the defences raised in earlier sessions. In this regard, he noticed that defences focused on whether it was the prerogative of the administrative bodies, ruled that the General Intelligence Department director was not authorised



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No peace with hunger

THE FINDING, on the eve of the holding of the Madrid peace conference, by independent groups that infant and child mortality rate in Iraq has quadrupled since the end of the Gulf crisis because of food and medicine shortage is appalling and sad. The Iraqi people are increasingly becoming victims of a merciless power struggle between their regime and a heartless new world order. That innocent people have fallen victim to a series of resolutions adopted by the larger international community is tragic in every sense of the word.

The Iraqis are incapable, as the West well knows, of toppling their regime. The prospects of them doing so is very grim indeed. Meanwhile, the regime, itself submerged in its own rhetoric, has failed to, or has no intention of, rehabilitating itself into either its Arab environs or the community of nations at large. It is most unfortunate therefore that the Iraqi people, for long an oppressed lot, should be the victims of an endless and cruel fight between the president of Iraq and the president of the U.S. The U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney was quoted recently as predicting the Iraqi president's "days were numbered." Only two weeks ago the Iraqi president himself swore that Iraq would not give in to Western pressure and that his country could live with the economic sanctions for 20 years if need be. What is strikingly clear is that the people of Iraq will bear the brunt of this merciless war between the U.S. on the one side and the Iraqi leadership on the other. While it seems not possible to convince the Iraqi president to retire and spare his people more misery and agony, it looks equally unlikely to imagine that the Iraqi people under pressure to manage their basic life would revolt and bring change to their devastated country.

It has been proven on other occasions that sanctions only strengthen the grip of regimes on the people. If anything, the Iraqi people need to live decently before attempting to make political change. The Iraqi regime, composed of army generals and Baath party officials has since the Gulf war ended consolidated its hold to power and is increasingly showing signs of confidence. Meanwhile, the Iraqi people should not be made to endure the brunt of the sanctions. These sanctions were originally mandated to force Iraq to abandon Kuwait; they were not given sufficient time to work and, therefore, they could not achieve that objective. The objective was later changed. The blockade would remain on until the leadership was toppled. The sanctions are already more than one year old. Their effect on the regime are minimal. The Iraqi people as such had very little to do with the Kuwait invasion or the standoff that ensued. In particular, the children of Iraq are the ultimate victims. This shameless state of affairs should not continue. Little children should not be made the victims of governments whether they are democrats or dictators.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FURTHER to its intentions to sabotage the peace conference, Israel has carried out a provocative action by moving the headquarters of the border guards to East Jerusalem, Al Ra'i daily said in commenting on the obstacles in the path of the peace process. The paper also referred to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Strasbourg in which he said that there was no occupied Arab territory which can be exchanged for peace with the Arabs. All these provocative actions, while the time for the peace conference draws near, indicate clearly that the Jewish state is determined to keep Arab land and turn down any attempt to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. It said that these actions are coupled with an escalation of terrorist practices against the Palestinians and by statements by extremists attacking the idea of the conference and the bid to achieve peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs because this would mean a withdrawal from occupied land. It is good that the Arab parties are well aware of Israel's real intentions, but such awareness is not enough to force the Israelis to succumb to the will of the world community, the paper said. The paper demanded that the superpowers exert further serious efforts to force Israel to give up its terrorist policies which aim at sabotaging the conference. The paper said that the world community is now well aware of Israel's manoeuvres and can by no means allow Israel to undermine the opportunity for peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomed the declared intention of a majority of expatriates to invest in productive projects in Jordan and said that thousands of those who came back to the homeland have vast experience and substantial capital, vital for any venture. Nashed said that these expatriates are determined to invest in projects not only to benefit themselves but also to serve their country which is offering them the chance to operate and prosper. The writer commended the government's trend to offer facilities for such projects but noted that any venture requires preparations and good planning. He said that the expatriates are in need of further facilities from the government before they can embark with greater confidence on projects useful for Jordan and they are also in need of advice which the concerned ministries can offer through their specialised units. The writer said that all concerned government departments are called upon to expand the margin of facilities so far offered to investors and noted the exceptional circumstances facing Jordan at the moment require exceptional decisions and more courageous steps leading towards prosperity.

Tough choices are shaping up for Israel

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — No one who knows the Middle East will celebrate yet. The substance of a successful negotiation, the give-and-take needed to make it work, is still hard to envisage. But there are going to be negotiations, starting next week in Madrid, and that is remarkable enough.

wheeling and pushing the intractable parties. But this success was possible only because the president had the vision and courage to commit himself to this conference.

President Bush seized the moment, after the Gulf war, for a new effort at Arab-Israeli peace. He understood that some fundamental power relationships had changed. Those changes offer hope for an onset of reason in the Middle East.

The end of the cold war has had an immediate impact on the region. Soviet military support for Syria has ebbed, making President Hafez Al Assad look to improved relations with the United States. Israeli and U.S. fear of communist influence has abated, making possible a joint

Soviet-American invitation to Madrid.

The decline in Soviet power is also having a profound impact on U.S.-Israeli relations. It has weakened, or removed, one basis for the close ties of recent decades and for huge levels of U.S. aid: the idea that Israel was a strategic asset for America in a vital part of the world.

The Gulf war showed that U.S. armed forces could act in the Middle East without Israel. In that war, Israel was a complication rather than an asset in U.S. military calculations.

Americans are still committed to help Israel, for reasons of history and conscience. But it is clear that a more detached relationship is developing, one in which America will more freely weigh its own values and interests.

The Economist wrote last month: "Americans still express their moral commitment to Israel's survival; but Israel's moral case grows steadily weaker as it refuses to extend to the Palestinians the right of self-determination that has become a cornerstone of the emerging world order. A peace which left Israel ruling over millions of voteless Palestinians has become unthinkable."

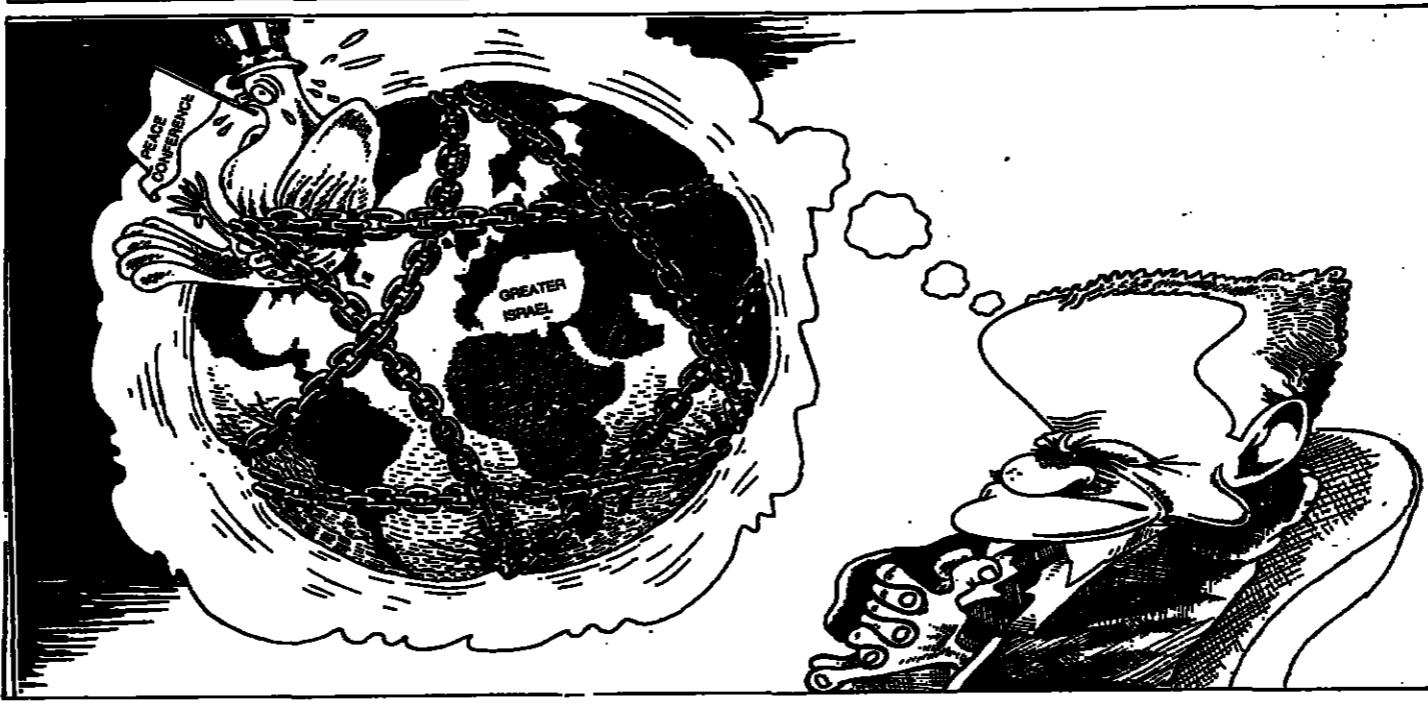
Israelis are increasingly aware that they cannot expect unconditional support from the United States, that they can maintain the vital American connection only by paying attention to U.S. interests. Mr. Bush made that bluntly clear when he postponed consideration of loan guarantees; too bluntly, most Israelis thought,

although they understood the larger point.

In this new relationship, the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are the crunch. U.S. policy is to end Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their more than 1.5 million inhabitants. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and much of his government are committed to creating annexation of the territories.

But there will be no large-scale foreign investment, Mr. Avishai writes, and no long-term contracts with Israeli companies while the world sees uncertainty over the issue of the occupied territories.

Economic realities are also pushing Israel to make a choice about the occupied territories. Bernard Avishai explores the reasons for this in the forthcoming issue of the Harvard Business Review. The \$10 billion sought



U.S. media play down conference

By Allison Kaplan

The Jerusalem Post.

WASHINGTON — Far from creating fireworks, the announcement of the Middle East peace conference hit here with a dull thud.

Though the painstaking progress toward Madrid has been dutifully reported in the media, the peace process is hardly the talk of the town — or the country.

Foreign news, other than war, traditionally fails to grip the imagination of the average American, and even more so when the country is consumed with domestic concerns. In the past week, Middle East developments have clearly been overshadowed by the aftermath of the messy and more titillating soap opera surrounding the battle over Clarence Thomas's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Even foreign policy specialists, Mideast experts and those who are following the process closely greeted the announcement of the conference without much excitement. Looking toward Madrid, their predictions are somber, often downright pessimistic, with most anticipating an impasse over the principle of land for peace

that will be difficult, if not impossible to overcome.

Commentators are stressing that, while President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker may have gotten the parties to the negotiating table, they have no idea what they are going to do once they are there. Even optimists say that Mr. Bush's stated goal of "real peace" is a remote possibility at best.

"I wouldn't bet my ranch" on the chances of a diplomatic triumph, said ABC News White House correspondent Brit Hume, a tennis partner of Mr. Bush's, told his viewers yesterday.

Any hope that the ceremonial opening will be followed by concrete progress is based on the prospect that the same forces that brought the parties to the table — a desire not to anger the U.S. — will keep them there.

Arabs and Israelis are "not saying yes to each other yet," said William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and a former top State Department official. "They're saying yes to the U.S."

He predicted that, after the ceremonial opening, the process will be marked by "pauses and

recesses and stalemates and lots of acrimony," and it will break down when the parties move to bilateral negotiations.

"Leaving the parties more or less on their own is a guarantee that they're going to confront each other with the starkness of their real positions, and it will be a stalemate."

Another former State Department official, Richard Murphy

appearing with Mr. Quandt on the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, agreed that by the bilaterals will likely break down. "Within a matter of days," he said, the Arabs and Israelis will realize that mediation by the U.S., perhaps also by the Soviet Union, will be essential, and they can't make it on their own."

The more cynical believe the entire Madrid effort is based not on the genuine desire of the parties in the region, but on Mr. Bush's desire to create a grand photo opportunity on his 1992 re-election campaign.

Though he can still claim the Gulf war was a victory, Mr. Bush can point to few tangible results.

Saddam Hussein is still in power, the restored Kuwaiti monarchy is far from democracy, and Amer-

ican efforts to create a post-war

security structure to protect the oil-rich region seem to be coming apart. There were reports yesterday that the U.S. is being forced to bring home equipment it had wanted to pre-position in Saudi Arabia, because of Saudi objections to a continuing American military presence.

Since the conference is meant to be Mr. Bush's Middle East triumph, administration officials are reminding the press that the fact the parties are talking is an accomplishment, even if it does not result in a tangible progress.

With so little of the optimism that surrounded the Camp David process, there seems to be no reason to hope for similar achievements in Madrid.

The diplomacy leading up to the peace conference has been a sterile exercise in closed-door deal-making involving no more than a few dozen people at most in any country," Thomas Friedman, the New York Times State Department correspondent wrote. "No Arab or Israeli leader has prepared his people for a historic transformation in relations. But without such a change in attitudes, no real peace will be possible."

Palestinians suggest measures

(Continued from page 1)

fists and left Jerusalem in a bus towards the King Hussein bridge.

"It's not the fact that the Palestinians are recognised now as speaking for themselves as a national people with rights, but it is also the fact that we enter this process with handicaps," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in Amman. "We enter the (peace) process while our people are being held as hostages under occupation."

"We are being forced to negotiate with our occupiers and we have a whole population that is being subjected to the most brutal treatment," Dr. Ashrawi said.

She added that the conference has adopted in many ways Israel's pre-conditions, which she described as being "very painful to us."

"We also cannot accept the exclusion of our legitimate leadership (PLO) from the negotiations, but we accepted all these unjust and painful constraints because we feel that we have to give this peace conference all the support it takes to get it moving and we have to get Israel to the negotiating table to see who is putting all the obstacles for peace in the region," she said, still smiling after hours of travelling.

She rejected suggestions that the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories be negotiated at the conference, saying that the settlements were a violation of the Geneva conventions and that Israel had to first adhere to the agreements of the Geneva conventions before negotiations start.

"According to this convention, we cannot negotiate anything with the occupier while it is still occupying land and violating our rights. All violations will have to cease in order to start real negotiations," Dr. Ashrawi stressed.

She added that besides the continued building of settlements, the Jewish state still expels Palestinians and continues to hold 19,000 political prisoners and detainees.

She told reporters later on the day

that the Palestinian team had "a long list of confidence-building measures" before it could start negotiations with Israel.

"We have a list of 25 confidence-building items, and we do not consider the cessation of settlements as a confidence-building measure," Dr. Ashrawi said. "The settlements have to be stopped immediately in order to legitimise the Israeli position in the conference."

She added that another demand would be to release all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees, the reopening of all their closed institutions, the lifting of censorship and legalising all political parties.

Dr. Ashrawi also said that the 46-month-old intifada would intensify as their negotiating team attends the Middle East peace conference, and described the uprising as the "strength and legitimacy (behind) the Palestinian delegation."

"There is a tremendous spirit of determination among the Palestinians, and I think it will intensify; it will be more developed and consolidated," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Dr. Ashrawi described the agreements reached between the five Arab foreign ministers in Damascus as "extremely encouraging and heartening to the Palestinians under occupation."

In the meeting, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO agreed that no single treaty or agreement between any single Arab side and Israel would take place at the conference.

"We still think that the multilateral talks should not proceed unless the cause of the conflict is removed, which is the Israeli occupation of Arab lands," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Following are the 14 Palestinians in the "guidance committee":

Faisal Husseini, 50, head of the committee.

Radiwan Abu Ayyash, 41, a native of the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus and former head of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories.

Abdull Hadi Abu Khussa, 48, from the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Salah Abu Laban, 41, a resident of the Dehaishe refugee camp in the West Bank.

Ziad Abu Ziad, 51, a lawyer and native of the village of Izzariya in the occupied West Bank.

Ahmad Yezzi, 45, a surgeon born in Gaza City in what is now the occupied Gaza Strip, and a former director of the city's Shifa hospital.

Hanan Ashrawi, 45, a native of Jerusalem and resident of Ramallah.

Radi Al Jarai, 40, a native of the West Bank village of Talfitza, he is a reporter for Al Fajr.

Zuhaira Kamal, 46, was born in Jerusalem and remains a resident of the city. She founded and heads the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action committees in the occupied territories.

Rashid Khalidi, 40, who lives in the United States. He taught at the American University of Beirut before the Lebanon civil war. In the early 1980s he joined the political science faculty at Columbia University in New York City. He now teaches at Chicago State University in Illinois.

Kameel Mansour, 50, a Palestinian author living in Paris. He was a researcher at the Foundation of Palestinian Studies in Beirut.

Sari Nusseibeh, 42, a professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University.

Anis Al Qastani, 60, a Palestinian lawyer now living in London. He worked in Kuwait for more than a decade.

Jamil Tarif, 44, a native of Ramallah. Disclosure of a private meeting he had in the summer of 1989 with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir caused a stir in Jewish and Palestinian circles.

from the United States in loans guaranteed is to build housing for Soviet immigrants to Israel. But if those immigrants are to have jobs, Mr. Avishai says, Israel will need two or three times that much in investment capital from the world. And Israel will have to change its protective economic policies and become part of the global market, using its special scientific and intellectual talents.

But there will be no large-scale foreign investment, Mr. Avishai writes, and no long-term contracts with Israeli companies while the world sees uncertainty over the issue of the occupied territories.

Economic realities are also pushing Israel to make a choice about the occupied territories. Bernard Avishai explores the reasons for this in the forthcoming issue of the Harvard Business Review. The \$10 billion sought

The week in print

Sound preparations for Madrid conference

JORDANIAN newspapers directed their attention in the past week to the peace conference due to open in Madrid at the end of the month and discussed preparations, like the Damascus meeting, as well as a number of domestic issues.

All three dailies Friday expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Damascus meeting attended by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO.

It is most satisfying to hear the foreign ministers reaching consensus on a unified Arab stand at the conference and to hear that the ministers would be holding periodic meetings to reassess the peace process, said Al Ra'i daily. Such agreement will no doubt give the Arab side to the peace process further backing and impetus for their work at the negotiating table, the paper said. The Damascus declaration was a victory for the pan-Arab nationalists, paving the ground for a more fruitful cooperation in all matters of concern to the Arab Nation, said the paper.

Al Dastour described the outcome of the Damascus parley as fulfilling the aspirations of the Arab masses who hope that the Arabs will stand firm together at the Madrid meeting. The paper expressed hope that the foreign ministers will now move on to more constructive steps leading towards the final Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories so that peace and stability can be established in the region.

<p

'Palestinians must struggle inside and outside the peace conference to achieve their rights'

Europe can play a major role in settling the Palestinian problem — PLO official

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Negotiations with Israel at the U.S.-Soviet sponsored Middle East peace conference is a form of continued Palestinian struggle, and the intifada and armed struggle against Israeli military targets should be intensified while the conference convenes, said a senior advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Nabil Shaath, who is a member of the PLO mainstream Fatah's Revolutionary Command Council, told a large crowd at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation last Wednesday night that Palestinians must now struggle "inside and outside the peace conference" to achieve their rights.

"Whoever wants to win any cards at the negotiating table must also escalate the intifada in the occupied territories and escalate the armed struggle against Israeli military targets," Dr. Shaath repeated said at the lecture.

"It is not true that the diplomatic struggle (at the conference) means giving up the political struggle because one cannot achieve much only through diplomacy," insisted Dr. Shaath, who is also heading the expert team for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference.

Trying to convince the audience why the Palestinians had to participate in the negotiations with Israel, Dr. Shaath said that the Palestinians had nothing to lose if they tried to diplomatically negotiate their way through a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

"We will always prove to America that without justice for the Palestinian people, there will be no stability, no peace and no security for anyone in the region," he added.

Dr. Shaath referred to U.S. President George Bush's speech to Congress on March 6, and quoted him as saying that the Middle East needed stability and peace through secure borders for the Israeli state and justice for the Palestinian people.

"What he meant," Dr. Shaath said referring to Mr. Bush's speech, "was that the Palestinians have proven that they are capable of destroying stability when they have no justice."

He warned, however, that there were no guarantees, and no one to give them the guarantees, that the conference would achieve anything for the Palestinians. He asked if there were guarantees that Palestine would be liberated when the Palestinians took up the armed struggle or when the intifada started.

"Who is to guarantee? There is no guarantee. But we must struggle politically inside the conference, with the intifada and with the armed struggle through every phase we pass," Dr. Shaath stressed. He added that if the Palestinian lead-

ership sees that they are not achieving anything from the conference, or if asked to make concessions they reject, "we leave the conference and continue the struggle otherwise."

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinians should take advantage of current circumstances in the world, saying that they were now entering a new era.

"But this conference is not for free. There is a strategic opportunity, a strategic gap that we should breathe through to achieve something, in addition to continued struggle on all fronts," he said.

Dr. Shaath explained to the audience that the PLO had tried to achieve "victories" before the convening of the Madrid conference next Wednesday, but failed.

He said that the organisation had tried to take advantage of the new circumstances in the past weeks and received an independent invitation to the conference, to give the chance to the Palestinian leadership to personally name its delegation and impose its own conditions before the start of the negotiations, "but the door was closed."

Some Palestinians have been critical of the PLO, for making concessions to Israeli conditions, mainly because only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip make up the Palestinian delegation, without representation from Jerusalem. The PLO also gave in trying to put a stop to continued Israeli settlements in the occupied territories before the negotiations started. Dr. Shaath added that it was clear to everyone that the Palestinian delegates were appointed by the PLO and that it would continue to take instructions from the organisation.

"But we did not make one single important concession before the negotiations," Dr. Shaath stated. "We did not compromise on the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination on their soil or the independent Palestinian state, in confederation with Jordan, with Jerusalem as its capital."

"We did not give up on our right to achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from the land it occupied in 1967, and we did not give up our right for Israel to stop the Jewish settlements immediately," Dr. Shaath went on. "But we could not achieve these goals before the negotiations, and if we did, they would have been victories."

He described as an achievement, however, the American letter of assurances which, he said, had stated that Jerusalem was considered part of Security Council Resolution 242, that is, part of the Israeli occupied territory after 1967.

The Palestinian official went on to say that Israel was no longer needed as a strategic ally to the U.S. after the Gulf war, and that peace and stability were necessary for the U.S.

fact that the U.S. was suffering a large financial deficit in its budget.

"The era of no-war, no-peace in the region has ended with a war and now the Americans want peace," Dr. Shaath said, adding that this was not in Israel's interest.

He predicted that the Israeli lobby in Washington would crumble, and described the group as a "strategic lobby that is an American trick created by American administrations to use as an excuse to its Arab allies that it could not compromise on Palestine."

Dr. Shaath warned, however, that the U.S. was not an ally that could be trusted and its "enemies of today will not become her friends tomorrow." He also warned that Israel could propose a new role for itself that could be in the U.S. interest in the region.

Dr. Shaath also stressed that the American powerful role in the world after the Gulf war and after the end of the cold war with the Soviet Union was only temporary, that it would "last five to ten years." He attributed his argument to the

"The Europeans gave \$350 million in Palestinian aid in 1991 alone, and that was only

the amount that was actually received by the Palestinians and not just what was allocated by the EC," Dr. Shaath said, adding that Israel had placed obstacles in front of the Palestinians in getting the full aid allocated by the EC.

He added that \$130 million of that amount, 70 per cent of which was given by Germany and Britain alone, was allocated as direct aid to Palestinians. The aid usually goes to UNRWA or to Palestinian institutions that support local projects. Dr. Shaath said that the aid was contributed by both governments and the public.

"In Italy alone, 2,000 families send monthly aid in the form of adopting Palestinian children," he said.

Dr. Shaath also said that the EC's financial role included the support of free trade, of direct Palestinian exports to the EC countries and placed trade restrictions against Israel until they forced the Jewish state to permit direct Palestinian export of citrus fruit to the EC countries without passing through the Israeli authorities

first. He added that the group also froze a scientific agreement with Israel to pressure it into reopening the Arab universities which were closed by the Israeli authorities during the intifada, but that these efforts were delayed by the Gulf crisis.

"Despite all the American pressure, Europe was the only party that directly placed restrictions against Israel and succeeded in achieving its aims," Dr. Shaath stressed.

He recalled a discussion he personally had with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar three months ago, during which Dr. Shaath asked him why the Fourth Geneva convention was not implemented in the occupied territories to protect the Palestinians there. Dr. Shaath quoted Mr. de Cuellar as saying: "I wrote to all the countries that signed the Geneva Convention agreements and only 32 of the 165 signatory countries responded. Not one single Arab, Asian or African country responded."

Dr. Shaath said that all the EC countries and other European countries were the only ones to respond to a call for protection of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

Dr. Shaath said that Europe was important for the Palestinians in the near future because "it will head the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Conventions" in the occupied territories.

He added that Europe saw in "the independent Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan a Singapore of the Middle East." The official said that Europe saw in the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples 300,000 university graduates who "have great abilities in engineering, electronics and computers."

"They see an opportunity of development here and see themselves as political and economic allies," Dr. Shaath said. He added that in the last nine months he talked to every European foreign minister.

"And if we can protect our people during the peace conference through Europe's forceful intervention to implement the Geneva Convention agreements — it means stopping deportations, the demolishing of homes, arbitrary measures and the building of Jewish settlements — then we have achieved a lot as we negotiate in this conference," he added.

Dr. Shaath described the Middle East as the "southern flank" of Europe and said its stability depended on stability in the Middle East.

"Many would say that Europe does what the U.S.

asks it to do. This may be true, but Europe always played a positive and practical — not just theoretical — role concerning the Palestinian question in order to achieve a distinguished role in the Middle East and North Africa," Dr. Shaath said.

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"They see an opportunity of development here and see themselves as political and economic allies," Dr. Shaath said. He added that in the last nine months he talked to every European foreign minister. "They don't see beggars in us, but see an ability and future capability," he insisted, adding that the "temporary American hegemony" would end with a pluralistic world, with Europe as a major power.

Now that it controlled the region...

"The era of no-war, no-peace in the region has ended with a war and now the Americans want peace," Dr. Shaath said, adding that this was not in Israel's interest.

He predicted that the Israeli lobby in Washington would crumble, and described the group as a "strategic lobby that is an American trick created by American administrations to use as an excuse to its Arab allies that it could not compromise on Palestine."

Europe's role

Dr. Shaath's lecture, in fact, focused on Europe's role concerning the Palestinian question. He stressed that for Europe to achieve its interests in the region, it felt it had to get closer to the Palestinian question and did so by mainly standing by the rights of the Palestinians.

He said that the European Community's (EC) aid to Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories in 1991 alone far exceeded that which was provided by all the Arab countries together.

"The Europeans gave \$350 million in Palestinian aid in 1991 alone, and that was only

the amount that was actually received by the Palestinians and not just what was allocated by the EC," Dr. Shaath said, adding that Israel had placed obstacles in front of the Palestinians in getting the full aid allocated by the EC.

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European defence plans in turmoil as NATO, EC summits draw near

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Plans to set up a European defence policy for the 21st century are starting to fall apart in acrimony and confusion, with just a few weeks to go before NATO and the European Community hold vital summit meetings.

The argument, of baffling complexity even to those involved in the negotiations, springs from one question: Will the United States and Western Europe remain partners in politics, trade and defence, or will the traditional bonds that have linked them for decades snap and give way to rivalry?

Competing views on this underlie the debate over how far, if at all, the European Community should take over some of the defence responsibilities that have always been the preserve of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"It's a very messy debate. There are differences which are completely irreconcilable, the way things stand at the moment," said Simon Lunn, deputy secretary-general of the Brussels-based North Atlantic Assembly.

France, Germany and Spain

threw fuel on the fire on Friday with a controversial meeting in Paris at which they called again for a common defence policy within a future federal EC.

They agreed elements of a joint foreign and security policy should be decided by majority voting within the community. Britain, Denmark and Ireland regard this area as the sole preserve of national governments.

Some EC members denounced the Paris meeting as an attempt by heavyweights France and Germany to circumvent discussions among all 12 members and force the issue before a December summit of EC leaders in the Dutch town of Maastricht.

France has taken the lead because it resents U.S. leadership of NATO and wants independent European defences as part of greater economic and political integration.

To confuse matters further, Britain and Italy — the two other major EC states — launched a proposal of their own 10 days ago endorsing a community foreign and defence policy as long as it did nothing to undermine NATO.

NATO officials publicly welcome moves toward closer European integration, arguing that a

more coherent policy will lift some of the cold war defence burden imposed on the United States. But they are also worried the EC might go too far.

Washington, concerned about losing its influence over the alliance, has repeatedly said it will not accept any arrangement that undermines NATO, marginalises any of its members or duplicates its functions.

"We've spelled out our views and we stick to them," said one U.S. official at NATO. Washington is backed by NATO members Turkey, Norway and Iceland, which are not part of the community.

The unspoken warning is that a "go-it-alone" policy by the Europeans could lead the United States to bring its troops home, thus breaking the trans-Atlantic ties at the heart of NATO.

Washington already plans to withdraw half of the 300,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe now the cold war is over.

"You have two extreme views — the French and the Americans — and various other countries who seem to be somewhere in the middle and not very clear," said Mr. Lunn.

Although all but one of the EC member states are also in NATO, the debate is difficult to follow because some countries seem to contradict themselves.

Germany professes deep commitment to the trans-Atlantic bond, but has also worried Washington and London by endorsing France's ferociously independent line.

The Germans want an American wife and a French mistress," said one NATO official. "The problem is that it is impossible to sleep with both of them."

NATO, due to hold a summit in Rome early next month to set out a new role for itself in the post-cold war world, has also shown signs of confusion.

Alliance foreign ministers agreed a lengthy statement on the so-called "European defence identity" at a Copenhagen meeting in June, which officials say left many questions unresolved.

"It basically pleased everyone by saying: 'The Europeans can do what they like, so long as they don't meddle with NATO,'" said one senior alliance official. "We still haven't resolved the basic contradiction inherent in that statement."

Democracy — an idea whose time has come, and maybe gone

By I.F. Abdullah

THE system of American democracy is very rigid, static, and very difficult to change. This becomes clear when every new president begins to tackle the national debt issue and fails. No congressman or any entitled group or state is willing to compromise any of the money or benefits they have for the sake of the country as a whole.

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These entities fully realise that when democracy takes root, countries become very difficult to manage and political systems become vulnerable to outside influence buying their way through ever available pundits at the expense of the national interest. Democracy is a ticket to destabilise and control countries, and maintain chaos under its guise.

Democracy can lead to indecision and immobilise progress. It should be noted that in the Arab World, and especially the Palestinians, are victims of Israeli democracy, since any decision on settlements can result in the downfall of the then current government. The whole country goes into indecision for sometime until a new government is operational again. This inability to make decisions has been exploited by all parties in Israel to maintain the status quo and sustain an inflexible policy.

Many factors required for a successful democracy are missing in the Arab countries; there aren't enough divergent special interests to counteract each other; there aren't enough large scale establishments with hundreds of thousands of employees to create powerful unions, and there is substantial fragmentation

among the citizenry, except for the dominant party. On another front, the media is not profitable enough to maintain independence, and there is substantial vulnerability to outside interests and influence offering personal gain at the expense of national interests.

Democracy can be substituted in Third World countries by "freedom of action." In a world where ideology is becoming secondary and capitalism is becoming the main preoccupation and aim, very few captivating motives remain.

Whether freedom of action in a stable environment, when granted by a benevolent government attuned to the interests and desires of its citizenry, can be the necessary ingredient for progress, especially when stability is achieved through "dominance of a party or clan, or a tribal collective government, leads in time to a "western-style democracy" (regardless of its merits), while maintaining a stable government, very difficult to prove, as the experience of Lebanon, India, many countries of Latin America, and the Soviet Union has shown.

Freedom of action may be the realistic expectation, with ambition fulfilled and challenge derived from personal endeavours,

The writer is an architect and real estate broker in Houston, Texas. U.S. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Sharing the most precious resource in the Middle East

By Ali Z. Ghazawi

WATER security will be one of the most important items to be tackled two weeks after the projected Madrid peace talks, on Nov. 13. The scarcity of water in the Middle East has been a constant source of friction between the various countries in the region. Water flowing from the rivers that originate in non-Arab countries accounts for 65 per cent of the region's water supply.

Thomas Stauffer, an international water consultant, wrote for the Arab Research Centre symposium on water, held in Amman in 1984, that it would cost Israel about \$1.2 to \$1.8 billion per year to supply its population with the necessary water requirements by employing large-scale sea water desalination plants to replace the water it takes from the occupied territories, which costs \$2 billion annually.

Two-thirds of Israel's water resources is secured within its 1948 borders while the remaining one-third is pumped from the West Bank. Of the West Bank's 615 million cubic metres (MCM), more than 80 per cent is consumed by 120,000 Jewish settlers and the remaining is used by 1.2 million Palestinians. Jewish settlers' per capita consumption ranges between 640 to 1,480 cubic metres per year. In contrast, Palestinian per capita consumption ranges between 107 to 156 cubic metres per year.

According to the Johnston Plan, three countries — Jordan, Syria and Israel — have to share the Jordan River water. However, Israel diverted the Jordan River's water at Lake Tiberias through its national water carrier to central Israel and the Negev Desert.

Another common water source between the three countries is the Yarmouk River. The Yarmouk River water has been reduced to less than 385 MCM equally distributed between Jordan, Syria and Israel, each being 35 per cent, 39 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. Jordan is transferring its share from Yarmouk River to the Jordan Valley, which provides the Kingdom with more than 40 per cent of its agricultural produce, through the King Abdullah canal or irrigation purposes.

Water is a precious commodity in the Middle East because of the arid climate of the region. One of the main Israeli reason in occupying South Lebanon was to control the Litani River, which originates in the Bekaa Valley. A wide-range scheme to transfer water to underground pipes from the Litani River to Israel has been under implementation for some time now.

Furthermore, Israeli water engineers have been conducting water surveys in Ethiopia and Uganda in order to divert part of the Nile water by building several dams before it reaches Egypt. It is worth mentioning that Israel policymakers have been eager to

divert part of the Nile to irrigate the Negev Desert. Such scheme would provide Israel with sufficient water resources to settle and inhabit the desert.

In this context one wonders what are the most effective methods to deal with the water scarcity issue during the upcoming

Fifth, a regional water bank should be established, where the Middle East states can collect and supply fuel free or at reduced prices to run such a plant.

Third, since most of the Middle East countries suffer from acute water shortages, an agreement on crop patterns should be

cause he lacked the rhetorical firepower Mr. Cuomo packs.

NEW YORK — If Hamlet were alive today he would be Mario Cuomo, the Democratic governor of New York state, and the question would be "to run or not to run."

Mr. Cuomo, considered by many to be the most articulate and charismatic figure in a depressed Democratic Party, is making front-page news these days by simply stating he is thinking of running for his party's U.S. presidential nomination.

Six other Democrats have already declared by Mr. Cuomo makes news by saying he is thinking of doing what they have already done and the reason is simple — no other Democrat looks as strong as he does on paper in the fight to defeat President George Bush in the 1992 election.

No other Democrat has kept the public and the political guessing longer than Mr. Cuomo. The "will he or won't he" question is now in its seventh year.

Political experts say that if the Democrats are to win the White House in 1992, they will have to find a candidate who can articulate the mood of pessimism that seems to be sweeping a country worried about its economy, faltering schools, worsening crime and a flawed health care system.

"Bush can be beaten in 1992, Cuomo might make a lousy president but he can be a very good candidate because he can speak," says retired New York Times political columnist James Reston, who has covered 10 presidents.

Mr. Cuomo declined to run in 1988 and Democrats got stuck with another governor — Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts — who was soundly defeated, partly be-

cause he lacked the rhetorical firepower Mr. Cuomo packs.

Mr. Dukakis could not articulate the issues, counter Mr. Bush's attacks or talk with passion, even when asked what he would do if someone raped and murdered his wife.

Ten days ago Mr. Cuomo had a dozen New York reporters and television cameras waiting for him to finish addressing a group of high school students in Manhattan because he had told an earlier meeting of financial backers that he would think about making the run.

Then, for 45 minutes, in a dozen different ways, Mr. Cuomo explained that his thinking about the presidency — which he says he does all the time — did not mean two unnamed sources close to the governor, the Post said Andrew had made a detailed analysis of what his father would have to do if he ran for the presidency.

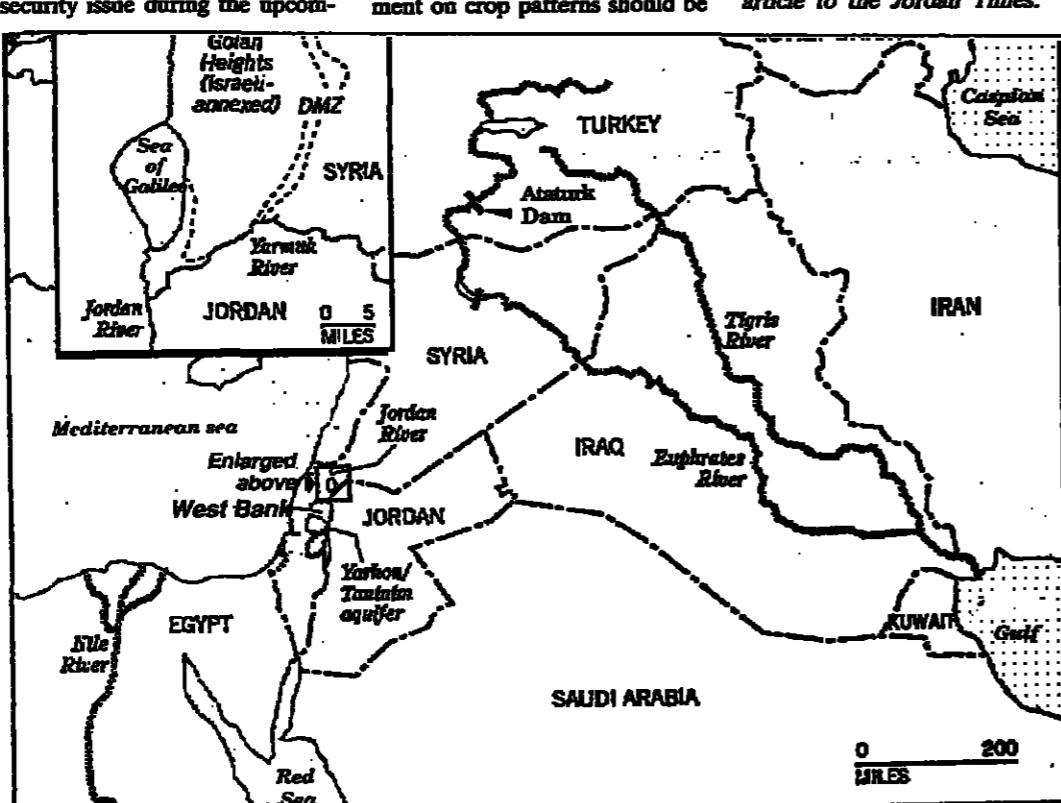
But in Chicago on Sunday, Mr. Cuomo took matters further, saying he had until "sometime in November" to make a decision.

He says his problem is "I'm the governor of New York... How do you manage that and a presidential campaign?"

It was a problem another New York governor, Franklin Roosevelt, handled well in his successful 1932 presidential campaign.

"He's got an obvious leg-up on the others. He'll be formidable, but I don't think anyone can sit back and just let it happen," Mr. Neuman said.

"He has to work for it. And he knows that. He's a good enough politician to know that it would be arrogant to assume the nomination will automatically come his way."



ing peace parley. Here is an attempt to put forward a few suggestions which could be of some help:

— First, emphasis should be placed on sharing the technology in water discovery and uses within the region. This can be accomplished on bilateral basis with financial and technical assistance from the United States, the European Community and Japan.

— Second, a joint large-scale sea water desalination plant

signed. Furthermore, the planting of such water-consuming crops as cotton and rice should be eliminated. (Since none of the Middle East countries has achieved food security so far, the elimination of certain crops should not pose a problem). Cooperation and coordination should again be emphasised.

— Fourth, all parties should stop subsidising water prices in order to eliminate excessive water usage.

Local contractors classified in the field of water and irrigation classification grade first and in the field of buildings classification grade first or second in the two

classification together or joint venture and contractors are nationals of the member states of the European Economic Community in the same fields and classification who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 26/10/1991 and accordance with the following terms:

- Project Description:
The Water Authority intends to collect water from Murhib wells No. s (1,2,3 & 4) to reservoir (1000)m³ in Murhib Area, and transmit the water by pumping to Awajan existing reservoir (550)m³, and Berain proposed reservoir (1000)m³ capacity.
- Work load will be considered in awarding.
- Tender price J.D.200 non-refundable.
- Last date for purchase of tender documents on November 13th, 1991.
- Offers shall be submitted to Government Directorate before 13:30 local time on Saturday 23rd of November 1991.

Deputy Chairman Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate

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Ministry of Public Works & Housing
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Deputy Chairman Central Tenders Committee
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Masri meets Palestinian delegations

(Continued from page 1)

Ahawi, said that Mr. Masri met with representatives from inside and outside the occupied territories. She gave no details but described the meeting "as productive and informative."

Arafat to stay out of peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

real peace, but we have to work now for it ... we may succeed to achieve real peace in this area," he said.

The interview for the current events programme "Pozzer and Dogahine," was broadcast live to some parts of the United States.

Mr. Arafat said Thursday he was prepared to discuss a ceasefire with Israel to help along moves towards Middle East peace.

But the PLO leader, whose organisation is barred from attending the historic peace conference in Madrid next week, said Israel will have to talk to him first.

"We are ready to examine positively any official offer (from Israel) with view to mutual arrangements between the two parties in order to facilitate a peaceful outcome," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Tunis Thursday.

He was responding to a question from Yuval Maimani, Middle East editor of the Tel Aviv daily *Yedioth Ahronoth*, who asked whether the PLO would consider goodwill gestures such as a ceasefire to help the peace process.

"Let them ask me the question officially, first of all, and I will

reply. I am president of the State of Palestine and not of a charitable association," Mr. Arafat replied.

"So far they (Israeli leaders) have said no to the PLO."

Mr. Arafat left open the question of whether any ceasefire would include a halt to the intifada in the occupied territories, which is now nearing the end of its fourth year. "The cause of the intifada is the (Israeli) occupation," he said.

He suggested that a ceasefire would involve a halt to armed attacks on Israel from outside and inside the occupied territories, a halt to new Jewish settlements in the territories and the release of prisoners.

Israel puts the number of Palestinians in its military jails at more than 8,500.

Mr. Arafat also said that as part of any peace accord the PLO would favour deployment of multinational forces inside a future Palestinian state along its border with Israel "for as long as the Israeli people think it necessary to ensure their security."

"It would also be a security for us the Palestinians," he added.

Mr. Arafat said that in the long term the two sides should establish normal relations, including free movement of people.

Resignation to end differences

(Continued from page 1)

Mafrag, was unavailable for comment Friday, but in comments to the international press, he asserted that his resignation was also related to his discontentment over the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

"I have a certain position which differs from that of the government," Mr. Dughami was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "I am not against the peace conference, but I am against the form of participation," added the deputy, a member of the eight-member Democratic bloc in the Lower House.

He was also quoted as saying that he disagreed with the government's economic policy, including its decision to dispose of the government's shares in the private sector.

"There may be dozens of reasons behind Mr. Dughami's resignation, but the main among them is differences with other cabinet members, including the prime minister himself," said the cabinet source. "It is a long story of uneasy working relationship in the council of ministers."

According to sources close to the cabinet members and others, the proverbial straw came over conflicting stands adopted by Mr. Masri and Mr. Dughami over the contentious issue of government involvement in the administration of private enterprises, which are majority owned by the government.

The sources said Mr. Masri and Mr. Dughami recently clashed over whether the government should use its influence in the appointment of a director general of one enterprise which is majority owned by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), whose chairman is by law the labour minister, in this case Mr. Dughami himself.

Controversy still surrounds the argument between the prime minister and Mr. Dughami, since neither was available for comment and no independent confirmation of what had actually happened could be obtained by the Jordan Times.

The debacle might have served as the straw that broke the council's back in Mr. Dughami's term as minister, but the build-up to it has been in the making for some time although little has been said about it in the media.

The business community, mostly industrialists, had been disenchanted with Mr. Dughami's policy of summary replacements of foreign workers by Jordanians as one of the key solutions to addressing the mounting unemployment in the kingdom.

The industrialists had argued that they were suffering from dramatic decline in productivity and efficiency as a result of sudden departures of key foreign workers and had appealed to the prime minister for a gradual process of replacing those workers rather than blanket refusal to renew work permits for them.

"We discussed strategies and brought each other up-to-date," she said.

The basis of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating strategy has already been worked out by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat while technical teams from both sides are currently formulating working papers on the various aspects of negotiations.

PLO officials said that the agreement with Jordan stressed that the joint delegation at the conference will seek a solution based on Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied territories and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

They said that the agreement specifies that the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will come after the Palestinians are able to practise their right to self-determination.

Although the exact wording of the agreement was not made public, it is aimed at overcoming U.S. and Israeli opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan and the PLO have also agreed that they will press for an immediate halt to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories prior to the start of the bilateral talks and that

progress should be made on the Palestinian issue before proceeding to the multilateral talks.

The positions of both Jordan and the PLO were given a big boost on Thursday when a meeting of ministers of friendly states in Damascus declared the Arab side will seek an immediate halt to the Israeli settlements and a complete Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The Damascus meeting, which had the blessing of both Gulf states and the Arab Maghreb Union, apparently aimed at countering declared Israeli intentions to secure its acceptance in the Arab World without making a territorial compromise.

There were no strong indications, however, that the Damascus declaration amounted to a full-fledged commitment by all parties or an agreement that the Arab side will demand no commitment for the resumption of Saudi financial aid to either Jordan or the PLO.

Jordanian sources said Dr. Abu Jaber was happy with both the results of the Arab meeting and his exchange with the Saudi minister. "The latter helped to clear the atmosphere between the two countries following the strain of the Gulf crisis," one source said. "It is a step forward, and we are hoping for more of the same," the source added.

drawal and the settlements so that we can seriously discuss regional security and economic arrangements," said PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat.

"But to practically implement these objectives we will continue the coordination prior to the peace conference," Mr. Arafat said.

The Damascus meeting involved the beginning of a reconciliation process involving both Jordan and the PLO with Saudi Arabia. Jordan's Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Mr. Qaddumi met separately and informally with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal for the first time since the Gulf war.

Arab sources close to the meeting told the Jordan Times that Prince Saad stressed Saudi Arabia's political support for the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position, but there were no commitment for the resumption of Saudi financial aid to either Jordan or the PLO.

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"Therefore there is no need for a national team at the negotiating table because the final decision

Jordan finalises its delegates

(Continued from page 1)

"Dr. Abu Jaber will head the team to the ceremonies at Madrid but Dr. Majali will remain with the senior government source said.

"They have to be specialists in their field to conduct specialised negotiations on the issues which will be proposed during the course of talks," the source added.

Sources also rejected speculations that Jordan would upgrade the level of its representatives to a "national team" comprising political heavy weights of Jordan was being planned, but sources explained that the need for a national team was not eliminated under the present arrangements.

"The team of negotiators does not have the jurisdiction to make national decisions but has to come back to the consultative body and the cabinet on every step they make," said one of the sources.

The two teams within the delegation are expected to conduct several coordination meetings during the next two days before leaving for Madrid Monday.

The joint delegation is also expected to meet with King Hussein for final consultations before the conference.



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52 drivers take part in speed test

Komok wins season's final event

By Aileen Banayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ahmad Komok in a Renault 5 Turbo won Friday's speed test organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Komok, who was 14th in the overall Jordanian standings prior to the speed test won with a time of 2 minutes and 17.23 seconds.

Ma'rour Abu Samra in another Renault 5 Turbo came in second with a time of 2 minutes 19.57 seconds. He was followed by Ghathil Bilbeisi in a Toyota Starlet 1350 CC with a time of 2 minutes 19.68 seconds.

The speed test, held at the RACJ, began at 10 a.m. with 52 drivers taking part and a large number of auto sports enthusiasts cheering their favourites.

The results were decided on the basis of the fastest times recorded by each competitor in the two attempts of the morning and afternoon sessions.

Friday's speed test was highly competitive as it concluded the 1990-91 Jordanian Championship, season and the speed test's results might well affect the overall standings of the drivers.

Competitors in the speed test ranged from experienced drivers to newcomers to the sport. Each had different aspirations and ideas about the competition.

Ma'rour Abu Samra, who won last month's speed test was very apprehensive of the results.

Four Americans reach quarterfinals in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Pete Sampras has joined fellow Americans Richey Reneberg, Jim Courier and Aaron Krickstein in the quarterfinals of the Stockholm Open.

It was the best U.S. showing in the \$1.1 million tournament since 1981, when five Americans made the final eight.

Sampras, last year's U.S. Open champion and seeded No. 7, overcame David Engel of Sweden 6-7 (1-7), 6-2, 6-4 to set up a meeting with defending champion Boris Becker.

"I still feel I'm playing good tennis, but not great. I'm not at the same level as Lyon," said Sampras, who captured his third ATP title of the year in France last week.

Becker, who beat Sampras in straight sets in the semis here last year, advanced with a 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 victory over Goran Ivanisevic, a Croat who refuses to play for

"We're now competing not just for winning the speed test but for the overall standings in the Drivers Open Championship of Jordan," Abu Samra told the Jordan Times.

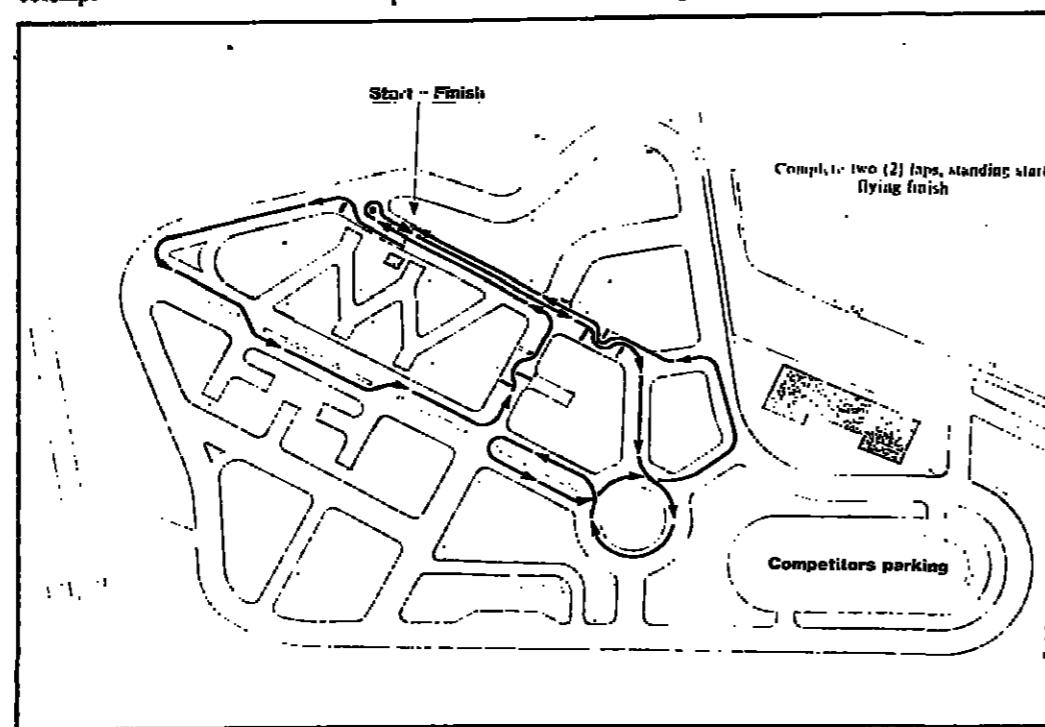
Mohammad Al Matkari, 12th in the overall standings, also took part in the speed test in his Datsun 180B, said: "It is a very enjoyable sport and pastime although we face many problems due to lack of sponsorship."

First time competitor, Mohsen Al Jabali commented: "It's a bit scary at first, but I would like to be able to compete with the more experienced drivers."

Commenting on the safety rules and organisation of the speed test, Hassan Al Taba'a who is fourth in the overall standings said: "The organisers have done their utmost to ensure that spectators and participants abide by the safety rules. This speed test is much better organised than the last one."

Prior to Friday's speed test, Naser Bustami was leading the Drivers Open Championship with 165 points followed by Ma'rour Abu Samra in second place with 162 points and Ghathil Bilbeisi third with 143.5 points.

In the Autotests Open Championship of Jordan Ghathil Bilbeisi leads with 50 points. Simon Sandi is second with 44 points, while Ahmad Komok is third with 38 points.



Braves bomb Twins to take 3-2 World Series lead

ATLANTA (R) — The Atlanta Braves dispensed with suspense on Thursday and instead delivered an awesome 14-5 mauling of the Minnesota Twins to complete a home sweep that turned the World Series upside down.

After winning consecutive one-run, nail-biting victories the last two nights, the Braves pounded Minnesota with a double-fisted attack that included three home runs, three triples and a pair of doubles among 17 hits.

The offensive explosion put Atlanta within one victory of winning the series despite losing the first two games in Minnesota.

The lopsided result sent the crowd of 50,878 at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium into rapture and enough tomahawk-chopping to cause an epidemic of sore elbows.

"This is the best home park in baseball, what with the chop that has really caught on all over," said Atlanta centrefielder Ron Gant, who had three hits, including a triple. "They really supported us this season and it does something for the attitude of our ballclub."

The Braves, however, have played their last game at home as the best-of-seven shifts to the Metrodome on Saturday where the Twins have never lost a World Series game.

"Since it was the last game in Atlanta we felt like we owed them something," Gant said. "All the guys on our team wanted

to thank them."

Atlanta took 12 innings and more than four hours of win on Tuesday, and needed ninth-inning heroics on Wednesday to even the series.

Game 5 was played by an entirely different script as the Braves scored four runs in the fourth, six in the seventh and nine in the eighth besides a solo run in the fifth for the biggest series total since the New York Yankees posted 16 runs in 1960.

Among the hitting stars were David Justice, who had a two-run homer and drove in five runs; Lannie Smith, who homered for the third successive game; and the remarkable Mark Lemke, who continued his unlikely series heroics with two triples and three runs batted in.

Atlanta starting pitcher Tom Glavine earned the win and Twins starter Kevin Tapani was tagged with the defeat in a reversal of the verdict rendered in Game 2 in Minneapolis.

When the teams reconvene within the noisy confines of the indoor Metrodome, Minnesota is expected to send 20-game winner Scott Erickson against precocious left-hander Steve Avery in a do-or-die game for the Twins.

"We know it's going to be tough," Justice said. "They're a very different team at home, but I really think we can do it. I think we can take one out of two up there."

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After a walk and an out, mild mannered Mark Lemke again transformed himself into a series sagger and ripped a long drive toward the wall in right.

This time it was Davis who

reached up on the dead run but had the ball tick off his glove and carom off the wall for a two-scoring triple. Lemke then came around on a sharp double to left by shortstop Rafael Belliard.

After adding another run in the fifth, Atlanta looked invincible behind Glavine.

Minnesota manager Tom Kelly, ironically, had jugged his lineup in hopes of generating more runs, but the manouvering made no difference as Atlanta set the tone with a fourth-inning outburst.

Two of the biggest hits in the uprising glanced off the gloves of Twins fielders, but both would have required spectacular catches.

Ron Gant started the rally with a fine single to left. Justice drove the next pitch toward the wall in left.

The ball was hit so hard off-fielder Jim Giadone did not have time to set himself at the wall before leaping. He tipped the ball with end of his mitt and the ball bounded off the top of the fence and out of the park for a two-run homer.

After a walk and an out, mild mannered Mark Lemke again transformed himself into a series sagger and ripped a long drive toward the wall in right.

"I'm just happy, I can't describe it," said Smith, 35.

"The home runs don't mean as much to me as the fact that we're ahead now."

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form your ordinary words.

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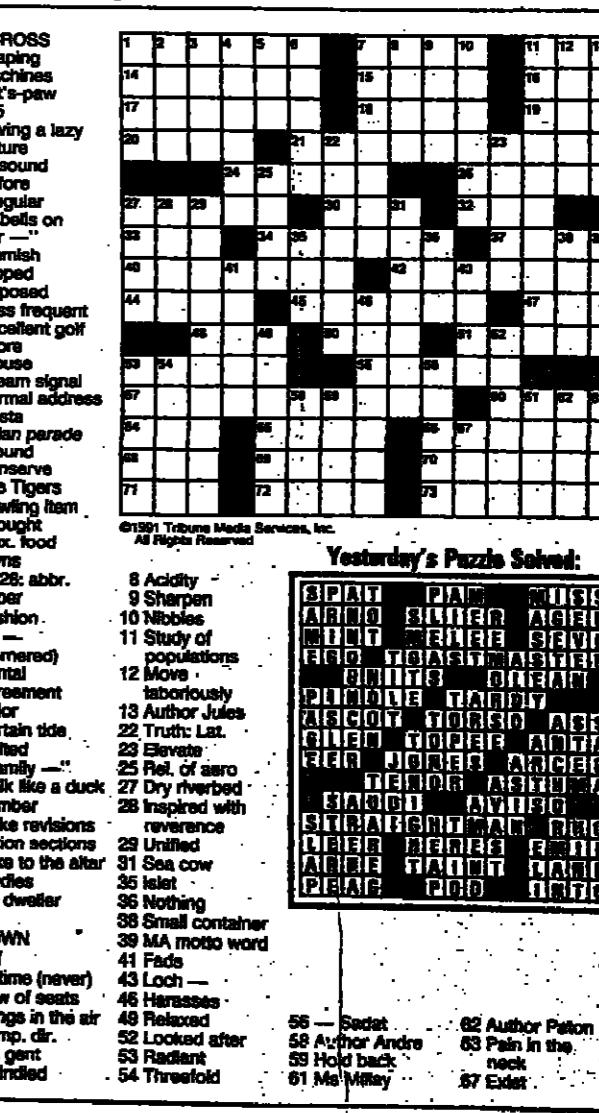


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumble: DADDY LANKY POWDER KERNEL
Answer: In order to achieve success, first plan your work, then --- WORK YOUR PLAN

THE Daily Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Shaping machines
- 7 Cat's-paw
- 11 605
- 14 Having a lazy nature
- 15 Redwood
- 16 Before
- 17 Irregular
- 18 "...bells on her..."
- 19 Aleman
- 20 Pinned
- 21 Diamond
- 22 Less frequent
- 23 Excellent golf score
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- 29 Conserves
- 30 The Tigers
- 31 Bedding item
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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1991 9

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
	Date 23/10/1991	Date 24/10/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.6990	1.7077			
Deutsche Mark	1.7115	1.7055			
Swiss Franc	1.4960	1.4903			
French Franc	5.8370	5.8125 **			
Japanese Yen	131.68	131.33			
European Currency Unit	1.7965	1.2020 **			
IND Per STG					
European Opening = 850 a.m. GMT					
Forex currency rates	Date: 24/10/1991				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37		
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.43	10.11		
Deutsche Mark	9.15	9.25	9.31		
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.25	8.18		
French Franc	8.87	9.06	9.12		
Japanese Yen	6.46	6.18	5.90		
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.87	9.87		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Metals	Date: 24/10/1991				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm**	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	360.85	7.05	Silver	4.11	0.091
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 24/10/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6680	0.6680			
Sterling Pound	1.1683	1.1741			
Deutsche Mark	0.4014	0.4034			
Swiss Franc	0.4592	0.4615			
French Franc	0.1177	0.1183			
Japanese Yen*	0.5217	0.5245			
Dutch Guilder	0.3562	0.3580			
Swedish Krona	0.1102	0.1108			
Italian Lira*	0.0537	0.0540			
Belgian Franc	0.01951	0.01961			
Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 24/10/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.7890	1.7950			
Lebanese Lira*	0.0775	0.0777			
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1835			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1870			
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7650			
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1870			
Greek Drachma*	0.3640	0.3700			
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4625			
Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market	Date: 24/10/1991				
Index	22/10/1991 Close	23/10/1991 Close			
All-Share	124.07	124.07			
Banking Sector	105.24	104.67			
Insurance Sector	125.11	125.21			
Industry Sector	152.72	153.59			
Services Sector	132.24	131.29			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7135/45	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1260/65	Deutschmarks	Deutschmarks
	1.6966/76	Dutch guilders	Dutch guilders
	1.9112/22	Swiss francs	Swiss francs
	1.4865/75	Belgian francs	Belgian francs
34.91/95	5.7875/25	French francs	French francs
1267/1268	131.20/30	Italian lire	Italian lire
131.20/30	6.1820/70	Japanese yen	Japanese yen
6.6480/6530	6.5725/75	Swedish crowns	Swedish crowns
One ounce of gold	361.90/362.40	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

Changes in law were misunderstood; Jordan maintains liberal approach Minister clarifies foreign investment policy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to common belief, the Lower House of Parliament has not discouraged foreign investment in the Kingdom and the door remains wide open for foreign investors to come in, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

The controversy, kindled by Lower House amendments to a draft law on foreign investments in Jordan, is much ado about nothing since the government has not changed its policy of encouraging foreign investors and simplifying related legal procedures.

If anything, Mr. Abul Ragheb adds, the government has enhanced and improved the climate for foreign investment in the Kingdom and some of the regulations governing such enter-

prise are in fact more liberal than in some other Third World countries.

"Many potential investors have misunderstood the amendments to the law as voted by the Lower House" in early August, Mr. Abul Ragheb told, the Jordan Times, in a recent interview. The very idea of introducing the draft law was to reduce bureaucracy and what the Lower House did was to reincorporate elements which added to the legal procedures governing permissions for foreign investment in the country, he said.

"What we wanted was to eliminate the involvement of the council of ministers in approving projects with foreign investment," Mr. Abul Ragheb explained. "The amendment to article six of the law now states that the council of ministers have to approve such projects, thus retaining the status quo."

The original draft of the law said investment from "foreign" investors in projects in the areas of industry, tourism, health, agriculture, housing, mineral exploration, media, education, telecommunications and construction could be approved by the minister of industry and trade. The amendment deleted mineral exploration, media, education, and telecommunications from the areas where foreign investors could come and change the reference from "foreign" investors to "Arab" investors for projects that could be approved by the minister and stipulated that "non-Arab" investments should be cleared by the council of ministers.

The amendments do not prohibit "foreign" investments in these areas, Mr. Abul Ragheb pointed out. In essence, he said, a foreign investor could own 100 per cent of projects in these fields as long as they had approval from the council of ministers upon the recommendation of the minister of trade and industry.

Mr. Abul Ragheb referred to a recent agreement concluded between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and an Indian firm to set up a phosphoric acid plant in the south and said the JPMC will have only 40 per cent equity in the project while the Indian company will own 60 per cent.

The law liberalises foreign participation in dealings in the Amman stock market (as long as the volume of shares purchased by a foreign investor does not exceed 49 per cent of the total equity of the concerned company) and eases the way for repatriation of capital and profits.

The provisions allow profits derived by foreign investors from Jordanian projects to be reinvested and consti-

uted as capital.

The law also offers immunity to projects with foreign investment against seizures or confiscation except through a legal process conducted by a court of law.

The overriding stipulation in the law is that the foreign investor should transfer the funds in any convertible currency to Jordan through a licensed Jordanian financial institution. This provision is clearly aimed at blocking the flight of Jordanian capital disguised as foreign investment.

The amendments to the law came after razor-thin votes — in one case 29 in favour and 28 against — in the House after what was interpreted by observers as an oversight on the part of the ministers-cum-deputies to turn up for the session. Only 57 of the 80 members of the House attended the session, but Islamist deputies and their supporters turned up in strength to incorporate the amendments.

Six deputies who are ministers were not present during the session, noted one observer. "If they were present, there was no way these amendments could have been incorporated since the margin of votes in favour did not exceed two."

The main contention of Islamists was that the draft law, in its original form, would have allowed "hostile powers" to invest in Jordan and gradually gain control of key economic sectors in the Kingdom. But the net shape of the law after the amend-



Ali Abul Ragheb
ments has only added to the bureaucracy in contrast to the government's objective of addressing complaints that too many legal procedures discourage potential investors, economists say.

Furthermore, analysts say, if the goal of Islamists was to block "hostile investment" in Jordan then they have not succeeded since the council of ministers still is empowered to allow foreign investors after scrutiny.

Observers point out that the amended law has not been fully endorsed by parliament since the Upper House (Senate) has not voted and approved it. "It is highly possible that the Senate would add its own amendments and send it back to the Lower House, prompting a new round of votes when the government could muster majority and reverse the original Lower House amendments," one observer pointed out.

IMF increases funds for Dhaka

DHAKA (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which held up aid to Bangladesh earlier this year because of Dhaka's poor economic management, has now approved an extra \$123 million.

IMF and Bangladesh central bank officials said the IMF had increased to \$469 million the aid to Dhaka from a previous \$346 million offered under a three-year programme which began in fiscal 1990/91.

IMF had been annoyed by Bangladesh's move to raise the salaries of about one million government employees, bank officials said.

The pay hike will cost four billion taka (about \$110 million) annually, according to official figures.

The change of heart by the IMF indicates the fund was pleased with the economic programmes being pursued by the democratic government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia," a central bank official said.

An IMF official said a team from the fund which visited Bangladesh recently approved the extra money after it found Bangladesh had promised to take further steps to streamline the economy.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Oct. 19-23	Oct. 12-16
Daily average	JD 2,359.945	JD 1,281.689
Total volume	JD 11,799,727	JD 6,008,447
Total shares	4,751,572	2,469,826
No. of contracts	5,344	3,557
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 7,895,782	JD 4,854,978
Financial	(65.5%)	(67.5%)
	JD 1,187,187	JD 1,024,535
	(27.0%)	(23.7%)
Service	(5.6%)	(7.4%)
Insurance	(0.9%)	(1.4%)
Share price index	134.4	133.6
No. of companies	74	73
Price movement (rise)	41	41
(Decline)	23	22
(stable)	10	10

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks wound down a sluggish session to close barely changed. The 225-share Nikkei average was down 42.83 to 24,906.43.

FRANKFURT — German shares shrugged off an early boost that came in line with positive earnings commitments from Daimler-Benz to end lower across the board. The DAX index ended 6.98 down at 1,572.03.

ZURICH — Shares lost over one per cent, pressured by rising interest rates, profit-taking and position-squaring. The SPI index fell 12.6 to 1,061.7.

LONDON — U.K. stocks closed with wider losses, pushed down by weakness in Wall Street and a political opinion poll giving Labour a lead over the Conservatives. The FTSE closed 13.6 lower at 2,514.7.

PARIS — Arbitrage helped the Paris bourse post a modest closing gain despite weakness in bonds. The CAC-40 index added 3.19 points to 1,834.

NEW YORK — Blue chip stocks retraced the session's losses by midday, recovering on a wave of buy-programmes.

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Serbia rejects revised EC plan

THE HAGUE (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Friday rejected a revised European Community (EC) plan for a loose association of independent Yugoslav republics.

"This proposal, with this content does not lead to stability and peace but opens the way for sure to new instability and tension," he said in a speech released to journalists.

The European Community-sponsored peace talks on Yugoslavia reopened Friday, with presidents of the country's six republics attending, to discuss a plan for a loose association of independent republics.

Conference Chairman Lord Carrington said on British Radio the EC should keep trying to find a political solution to the conflict.

The start of the meeting was delayed by an hour by talks between Mr. Milosevic and Lord Carrington.

The latest peace effort has been shaken by a boycott of the talks by the Serbian bloc of the collective Yugoslav Presidency and by continued fighting in the crumbling federation despite further EC ceasefire attempts.

Former British Foreign Secretary Carrington, asked about the peace process by British Broad-

casting Corporation (BBC) radio, said Friday morning: "No. Of course I'm not confident. It would be foolish to be confident."

"But what I am sure of is that one has to go on trying, because if we fail the consequences for the people of Yugoslavia are going to be perfectly terrible in terms of human misery."

The EC is to present a fleshed-out version of a plan agreed by all the republics except Serbia at last week's session of the conference.

It foresees a looser association for the six republics and two provinces, which group 23.5 million ethnically and religiously diverse people.

The new 11-page document circulated among journalists Friday sets out the same general terms, talking of "a free association" of sovereign and independent republics within the existing borders.

The draft calls for autonomy for certain national or ethnic groups where they form a majority within republics and adds that such areas must be permanently demilitarised.

Meanwhile, a Yugoslav army pilot defected in his fighter plane to neighbouring Austria Friday, Austrian Radio reported.

The pilot landed his Soviet-

built MiG in the southern town of Klagenfurt shortly after 10 a.m. (0900 GMT). It was the first defection of a pilot with his aircraft in the war between the Serbian-led army and the breakaway Republic of Croatia.

"I was informed by the security services at Klagenfurt that a Yugoslav army pilot had landed and was seeking political asylum," Interior Minister Franz Loeschak told the radio. "He is currently being questioned."

The Austrian News Agency (APA) said Austrian authorities identified the pilot as 33-year-old Rudi P. His surname was withheld.

"I am a Croat and I don't want to fire on my own people," he was quoted by police as saying during questioning.

He told police his 50-minute defection flight began in Bihać, a strategic Yugoslav military base 100 kilometres south of the Croatian capital, in the neighbouring republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The MiG-21 was not armed, and its two extra fuel tanks were empty, said Austrians who examined the aircraft.

The Yugoslav army launched a new mortar attack on the historic Adriatic port of Dubrovnik Friday, just hours before the start of

peace talks with the European Community in the Hague, Croatian Radio said.

It said the army fired mortars on the eastern approaches to the city in the early hours of the morning despite a truce agreed with Croatian forces.

The radio gave no other details of the new attack on Dubrovnik but said that on Thursday shells fell on hotels and residential areas and landed near a hospital and in the city harbour.

It was not clear whether any historic buildings were hit.

The advance on and bombardment of Dubrovnik prompted sharp Western criticism of the scale of an historic port deemed a world heritage site by the United Nations.

"The ceasefire was short-lived," said Simon Smith, head of a 200-strong European Community observer group in Yugoslavia, referring to a local truce supposed to have started at five p.m. (1600 GMT) Thursday.

In a new strain on the colliding Yugoslav Federation, Serbs voted Thursday night to set up their own parliament in Bosnia-Herzegovina because the other main ethnic groups in the volatile republic have declared it a sovereign state.

U.K. Labour takes 6 point lead in poll

LONDON (AP) — The opposition Labour Party moved into a six-point lead over the Conservatives in an opinion poll released Thursday, another in a series of surveys showing a decline in support for the ruling party.

The National Opinion Polls (NOP) survey for the Independent newspaper and the Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) also showed that nearly twice as many people trust Labour to protect the National Health Service (NHS).

Labour's gain came largely at the expense of the Liberal Democrats, according to the poll.

The Tory rating at 39 per cent

was unchanged a similar NOP poll conducted last month, which gave Labour a 3 per cent lead.

NOP said that Labour received the support of 45 per cent of those polled, up from 42 per cent a month ago; the Conservatives held on to 39 per cent; the Liberal Democrats had 12 per cent, a two-point drop; others had 4 per cent, a loss of one.

It was the second poll in a week to show an advantage for Labour. A Harris poll for the Observer newspaper conducted last week put Labour seven points ahead of the Conservatives.

The polls are being watched because Prime Minister John Ma-

Seoul officials warn pact with North is not easy

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik returned from North Korea Friday with a "breakthrough" agreement to discuss a non-aggression pact, but officials warned that a final accord may be hard to achieve.

They also reiterated Seoul's demand that the North submit its nuclear programme to international inspection, a demand Pyongyang has denounced as "a brazen and provocative act."

Smiling broadly in the crisp Korean autumn, Chung crossed the world's most heavily fortified frontier at the Panmunjom truce village to end a four-day visit to the North Korean capital Pyon-

Athens polytechnic ablaze after violent clashes

ATHENS (R) — The centre of Athens looked like a war zone Friday, with the city's polytechnic on fire and shops smashed and looted after the worst clashes in years between students and police.

Twenty people were injured in all-night skirmishes between police and students demanding more spending on education.

Witnesses said 500 riot police fired thousands of rounds of tear-gas and fought hundreds of protesters who occupied the polytechnic building, hurled petrol bombs, threw rocks, and blocked streets with burning barricades and a bus.

The sky lit up in much of Athens as a fire raged for five hours in the polytechnic before it was brought under control.

The neo-classical building was badly damaged and officials said the blaze was deliberately set by some 100 anarchists inside. The school's dean asked police to clear the building.

Forty-nine people were

"We are afraid this is not the end. Many anarchists left the building during the night but they may come back and create more problems," said a senior police officer said.

The clashes started Thursday after a march by some 1,500 students to the Education Ministry to demand more spending on education and the abolition of mid-term examinations reintroduced this year.

Police said that at the end of the demonstration the anarchists had stones and other objects at the ministry building and then went on to occupy the polytechnic.

The students have occupied more than 100 schools for the past two weeks and have threatened to take over all 1,600 high schools in Greece if the government does not meet their demands.

Student protests in January resulted in the resignation of Education Minister Vassili Konstantopoulos when a teacher was killed during a similar march.

"The damage in the polytechnic is tremendous. The fire totally destroyed one building which was built 150 years ago and priceless books, paintings and furniture. Today is a day of mourning for Greek academic society," said Nikos Markatos, dean of the polytechnic.

Regional strongman willing to take on Russia

GROZNY, USSR (AP) — Re-elected General Dzhokhar Dudayev has spent his career being bold — but his past exploits would pale in the face of what he's considering doing if he becomes president of the Checheno-Ingush Autonomous Republic.

"I believe there is a realistic threat of war," he said in his office, which was busting with sides in blue suits and camouflage gear. "I have no illusion that Russia will release its colonies."

Gen. Dudayev took control of the Checheno-Ingush Republic, a part of southern Russia, on Sept. 6 when his supporters occupied government buildings and ousted the Communist government for purportedly supporting the failed August coup.

His attempts to create as sovereign Chechen nation prompted Russian President Boris Yeltsin last Saturday to issue a three-day deadline for Gen. Dudayev to relinquish seized government buildings and disarm his National Guard and rancorous gun-waving army of young volunteers.

The deadline passed without incident.

Local journalists said Mr. Fokin's removal could have delayed moves towards independence and this forced radicals to rethink their position and back the government.

On Chernobyl, deputies were expected to vote for complete closure of the station, site in 1986 of the world's worst nuclear accident, as soon as technically possible.

Deputy Vladimir Yavorivsky, an ecologist who has led the campaign for its closure, told deputies they would be fully informed of the consequences in the coming winter of removing the station from the Soviet power grid.

There was no indication whether deputies would debate the question of whether the Ukraine would adhere to an economic agreement binding together Soviet republics and the Kremlin following the collapse of the country's main institutions in August.

Ukrainian parliament backs economic reforms

KIEV, Soviet Union (R) — The Ukrainian parliament changed its mind Friday and backed its government's plans for economic reform, including mass privatisation.

Diplomatic sources said soldiers and civilians were methodically pillaging houses in Lubumbashi, the capital of South East Shaba province.

At least 17 people were killed in the city this week after army looting began Monday, the medical aid charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said Thursday.

"There is a breakdown of authority in Lubumbashi. Looters are going methodically from an abandoned house to another," a Western diplomat said.

The economic policy resolution authorised minister of the second most important Soviet republic to implement "the privatisation of property, the liberalisation of prices, financial and agrarian reform and the social needs of the population."

"A lot of talking clearly went on last night and people appear to have calmed down," said Viktor Lisitsky, a Ukrainian member of the federal Soviet parliament.

"The government has been talking about privatisation for a month without achieving anything. The idea now is to get on with the business of setting up an economy after independence without fighting over specific plans," he added.

Radical deputies said Thursday the plan was not drafted properly and called for the resignation of Prime Minister Vitolid Fokin.

Parliament's turbulent session came in the middle of a referendum campaign in which voters on Dec. 1 are likely to back the Ukraine's independence from Moscow.

National sentiment reached fever pitch after the failed hardline coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August and now even conservative deputies favour independence.

Local journalists said Mr. Fokin's removal could have delayed moves towards independence and this forced radicals to rethink their position and back the government.

"This evacuation should happen at once so that it can benefit from the final protection of Belgian soldiers in Zaire," the statement said.

Radical deputies said Thursday the plan was not drafted properly and called for the resignation of Prime Minister Vitolid Fokin.

Parliament's turbulent session came in the middle of a referendum campaign in which voters on Dec. 1 are likely to back the Ukraine's independence from Moscow.

"Almost all the others have done it and we had to come to our own conclusion," he said.

A joint statement by President Saparmurat Niyazov and the Turkmenian parliament passed last week said the republic would not be diverted from the path to independence and would create its own armed formations to defend its territory.

Leaders in the republic, which relies heavily on its cotton crop, are set formally to declare independence Sunday.

Republican officials say the move towards secession from Moscow was sparked by the coup, after which all the republics except Turkmenia, Russia and Kazakhstan declared independence.

"Our population favoured

maintaining the union, and is still for the preservation of a single economic space," said Anatoly Sokolov, deputy head of the Turkmenian mission in Moscow.

"The referendum was caused

More looting in Zaire as West pressures Mobutu

KINSHASA (R) — Looting continued in Zaire's second city early Friday as Western pressure mounted on President Mobutu to pull back from the precipice and compromise with the main opposition parties backed by ordinary Zairians.

Both the United States and Western European countries piled pressure on Mr. Mobutu to pull back from the precipice and compromise with the main opposition parties backed by ordinary Zairians.

The French Foreign Ministry said Friday that the remaining French nationals in Zaire are to be evacuated and immediately afterwards France will withdraw the troops it sent to keep the peace.

"Given the situation in Zaire, the French embassy in Kinshasa has been told to organise, in coordination with the Belgian authorities, all the necessary means to repatriate the whole of the French community in Zaire as soon as possible," said Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard.

"The French troops will be withdrawn as soon as the departure of French nationals has been guaranteed... our cooperation (with Zaire) has been broken," he added.

The capital was calm Friday morning, 24 hours after violent riots erupted in protest at Mr. Mobutu's choice of prime minister.

A convoy of foreigners would leave Friday by road to Zambia, diplomats said.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said in a statement Friday: "In the light of the latest developments in Zaire the government finds itself obliged to insist forcefully that all Belgians leave the country so as not to put their lives and security at risk."

"This evacuation should happen at once so that it can benefit from the final protection of Belgian soldiers in Zaire," the statement said.

Most of the 1,400 remaining expatriates in Lubumbashi, the centre of Zaire's crucial mining industry, are being evacuated by Belgian paratroopers.

A convoy of foreigners would leave Friday by road to Zambia, diplomats said.

He picked veteran campaigner Mungu Diaka as Zaire's fourth premier in 1991, defying Western and domestic pressure to reappoint opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

In its toughest statement since the crisis erupted in Zaire last month with army-led riots, the United States effectively rejected Mr. Mungu as a credible prime minister.

"An effective and credible government in Zaire is an immediate necessity... such a government must be formed and led by a prime minister having broad popular support," the State Department said Thursday.

A popular referendum on whether the mainly desert republic should secede from Moscow is set for Saturday and most of the 3.6 million population are likely to vote yes.

Leaders in the republic, which relies heavily on its cotton crop, are set formally to declare independence Sunday.

Republican officials say the move towards secession from Moscow was sparked by the coup, after which all the republics except Turkmenia, Russia and Kazakhstan declared independence.

"Our population favoured

maintaining the union, and is still for the preservation of a single economic space," said Anatoly Sokolov, deputy head of the Turkmenian mission in Moscow.

"The referendum was caused

by the go-ahead from the Chinese authorities and will be held in Lhasa on Dec. 7. Ernesto Barba, Italian manager of the Holiday Inn Hotel that will host the event, said Wednesday.

"It will be a big extravaganza," said Mr. Barba, speaking by telephone from Lhasa, the regional capital. Several attempts by Chinese cities, including Shanghai, to boost their profile by holding beauty contests have failed in recent years because of political ill winds blowing from Communist hardliners.

Tibet holds its first beauty pageant this winter. Perhaps the highest and coldest of its kind in the world, the beauty contest has the go-ahead from the Chinese authorities and will be held in Lhasa on Dec. 7. Ernesto Barba, Italian manager of the Holiday Inn Hotel that will host the event, said Wednesday.

"It will be a good sign for the region. At least we have peace and cooperation on paper now," he was quoted by state radio as saying Thursday.

"This does not mean that peace will come easily. There might be some incidents that will not be in conformity with the agreement," he said.

He pledged Thai help in rebuilding the shattered country after the civil war, government troops, and Vietnamese whom the guerrillas say are still fighting in the Phnom Penh area.

"As the French say, after dark all cast are grey."

He accused other factions of already stashing guns to circumvent U.N.-supervised disarmament and demobilisation.

Mr. Ok Seiei Sopheap is said to be a peasant from the Phnom Penh area.

Gangs of renegades and deserters from all factions are operating along the border with Thailand. Aid workers fear the danger will grow as thousands of hungry combatants are demobilized with little chance of a job.

The peacekeepers will be at risk from the countless thousands of landmines strewn over the

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